PAGE 16



CHILDREN IN NEED

Nigella Lawson asks who is fit to be an adoptive parent PAGE 17



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BMA fears checks may be refused

Life insurers demand gene test results

By Marianne Curphey and Jeremy Laurance

PEOPLE applying for life insurance are to be required to disclose if they have taken genetic tests to predict whether they are at risk of inherited

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The ruling yesterday by the British Association of Insurers which will apply to all life cover including endowments. mortgage protection policies and personal pensions - is likely to mean higher premiums or even a refusal of cover for some people, even though they may be in good health.

when they apply.

Doctors immediately expressed fears that people would be deterred from seeking tests that might save their lives, and there were also concerns last night that the policy would create an uninsurable underclass.

At the moment, only a few thousand people undergo ge-netic screening each year, with tests concentrating on specificgenes linked to diseases such as cystic fibrosis and Huntingtons Chorea. But scientists have begun to identify gene combinations associated with more common conditions such and doctors believe that screening will become as routine as measuring blood pres-

sure within a decade. Such screening could predict people's vulnerability to other conditions where there is believed to be a genetic factor - including diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, ulcers and Alzheimer's - allowing them to start early treatment which could prevent disability and even save their lives.

In the face of such advances, the British Medical Associ-

ation expressed reservations ment - which mirrors their insistence in the 1980s that anyone who had an HIV test should declare it, even if the result were negative. The

BMA was concerned about the increasing use of health information for non-health purposes and worried that complex information could be misinterpreted. "We would be concerned if people were discouraged from finding out more about their health needs because of fears about the social implications of taking a test," a spokeswoman said.

The National Consumer Council said that the new policy could create a pile of rejects. "By using genetic test information when assessing risks, insurance companies could create an ever-increas-ing gbetto of uninsurable people. People with inherited diseases and their descendants could be denied cover and the idea that insurance is

A number of insurance com-

namies were also concerned an excuse for refusing cover or making it prohibitively expensive. Peter Robertson of the Edinburgh-based Standard Life said that it would not seek the results of genetic tests for the forseeable future. "It is more important to Standard Life that we are not seen to hinder medical research. Geneticists felt this requirement to disclose results might put people off taking such tests. This leads to concerns that insurers might slow down the

pace at which research would

proceed, preventing from being developed. But the Association of British Insurers defended its deciconsidered and responsible", adding that companies needed to gather information on test results to enable them to "monitor developments and guage any financial impact". Special arrangements were necessary to protect companies from being exploited by

people at high risk.
The association did, however, say that there would be a two-year moratorium during which test results would not be used against applicants for life policies linked to mortgages up to £100,000. Nor would anyone be compelled to take a genetic test - as is common practice in America - before 1999. Tony Baker, the association's deputy director general, said that the two-year gap would enable the industry to reassess developments in the fast-changing world of medi-

He dismissed the notion of an insurance underclass and said that genetic testing would "If someone has a positive test and it shows them to be more liable to a particular disease, they can change their lifestyle, stop drinking or stop smoking. As a result, we will have a healthier population and lower insurance premiums because of a reduced death rate as people live longer."

Mr Baker's association has 440 members. Last year there were 5.4 million applications for new life assurance policies, and the total value of premiums paid was £45 billion.





Michael Allcock before his conviction at the Old Bailey vesterday, which means he could be sentenced to seven years in jail, and his wife Sally

Corrupt tax inspector faces jail

AN unprecedented Inland Revenue anti-corruption operation is continuing after a senior investigator was found guilty of taking bribes on a breathtaking" scale. Michael Allcock faces jail

when sentenced today after being convicted at the Old Bailey of accepting cash from foreign businessmen to fund a life of luxury, lust and deceit.

His betrayal of trust has prompted a clampdown at the inland Revenue in an effort to ensure that the department's reputation is never again smeared by erring inspectors corrupted by the wealth with which they come into contact. Allcock, 47, from Colchester,

He had denied all 11 charges and was stony-faced as a jury of six women and five men the verdicts after 35 hours and 48 minutes of deliberation. spanning 64 days.

Last night his wife insisted that he was not corrupt. Sally Allcock, 44, said that the years since her husband's suspension had been an enormous strain on the family, but she had come to regard the "saga" as just another hurdle in a sometimes troubled life. "I feel that we have had four long gruelling years and it's been like a sentence in itself." She added that public reve-

charges of corruption, but affair with Michelle Corrigan, been painful, but that she and her husband had overcome the initial impact. "It did affect me. But I think we have been through so much in the past that really this didn't seem too bad really, what with me being ill in past years.

"At the beginning, I didn't like it at all. I really feel you just have to be strong. I believe in Michael and I've just been very strong through the whole thing." Asked before the verdicts whether she thought her husband had done anything wrong, she said: "No! don't. I just feel he just wants to get the truth out, but it's been very difficult."

position with the Inland Revenue and betrayed its integrity for his personal enrichment". he was convicted of accepting the services of Ms Corrigan as a bribe from Hisham Alwan, an Iraqi-born oil consultant. Alwan, 56, from Knightsbridge, central London, was also convicted on one

charge of corruption, but cleared on two other charges. He had denied all three. During the four-month trial which, with the investigation, is estimated to have cost £8 million, the jury heard how Allcock had protected wealthy businessmen whom he was

seen by some as flamboyant way and became a law unto

Allcock headed a special Inland Revenue department known as the Ghostbusters He targeted extremely wealthy foreigners, mainly Arabs, known as "ghosts" because they never registered for tax. Instead of demanding full tax payments from some, he readily accepted their bribes and pocketed at least

£155,000 in cash. Several inspector-level col Continued on page 2, col I

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EU to condemn **Britain over BSE**

The European Parliament is expected to condemn Britain's handling of the BSE epidemic and urge court proceedings against Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister. A report by a parliamentary inquiry also censures the EU Commission Page 2

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Labour to repeal gay law

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW, the Shadow Home Secretary, will today commit a Labour government to repealing controversial Conservative legislation which was seen as an attack on homosexual rights.

The pledge to kill off Section 28 of the Local Government Act, which bans local authorities from portraying homosex-uality in a positive light, will be made by Mr Straw on the third anniversary of MPs voting to lower the homosexual age of consent from 21 to 18. The declaration will delight the Labour Left but will be seized on by right-wing Tories who will argue that the move is a signal that a Tony Blairled government will be too liberal on moral issues. A and provoked a series of

senior Tory Party source said last night. "It is a sop to the politically correct brigade which is already returning to left-wing town halls."

Section 28, which was opposed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, prohibits local authorities and schools from publishing material for the promotion of homosexuality. Teachers were forbidden to represent homosexuality as an accepted form of family life and town halls were restricted from giving financial support or assistance to anyone wishing to convey homosexuality in a positive light. There have been no prosecutions to date. Section 28 became a cause célèbre for the libertarian left clashes with gay

campaigners. More than 70 artists led by Sir Ian McKellen, Simon Callow, and Nigel Hawthorn, of Yes Minister fame, took to the stage to protest against the government crackdown which they argued was censorship of the arts and an attack on the homosexual community.

Mr Straw will deliver his keynote speech tonight at a meeting of Stonewall, the organisation which campaigns for homosexual equality, at the House of Commons. Mr Straw, who along with Mr Blair voted for 16 to be the age of homosexual consent in the debate in February 1994. has been a long-standing champion of homosexual law reform.



Tufnell denial

Philip Tufnell, the England bowler, denied smoking can-nabis in a Christchurch bar on the eve of England's victory in the third Test. The team management backed his word against that of the bar Pages 3, 19, 48

Tory gun rebels defeated

By Polly Newton and Richard Ford

worst backbench revolts of the present Parliament last night as more than 100 Tory MPs voted against three key parts of its gun control legislation. Five former Cabinet ministers, including John Redwood, were among the Tories who defied a three-line whip to back an amendment passed in the Lords that would have allowed owners of .22 calibre weapons to keep parts of their guns at home. They would have been allowed to take their weapons apart to make them safe instead of storing them in gun club armouries. Michael Howard, the Home

THE Government suffered its

Secretary, with the support of many Labour MPs, succeeded in having the amendment

overturned by 394 votes to 115. Several rebels said last night that they hoped the Lords would continue their campaign and send the Bill back to the Commons again. Peers will consider the Firearms (Amendment) Bill again tomorrow. The other former Cabinet ministers delying the Government were John Mac-Gregor, Tom King, John Bif-fen and Michael Jopling. There was an even larger

rebellion over a Lords move to give compensation to gun dealers who will lose business as a result of the legislation. The Government had the amendment overturned by 319 votes to 140, with more than 100 Tory backbenchers dely-ing the whips. Mr Howard told MPs that the amendment would have extended the arrangements for compensation beyond anything which we have seen before in comparable circumstances".

In a third vote, MPs voted by 305 to 145, a majority of 160. to throw out a Lords move to give compensation to gun clubs forced out of business by the legislation. Tony Marlow, MP for

Northampton North, said that the Government and Labour had lined up against the Tory parry in the .22 weapons division. There was surprise that seven Liberal Democrats, including Paddy Ashdown, had voted for the Lords amendment. Twelve Labour MPs also supported it.

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Alluring foreign model some might not want to take home

A Commons fray at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. The Tories accused Labour's Robin Cook of taking his responsibilities (for "Foreign Affairs') too far and cancodling with her.

Absent from the Chamber, he was to be found (claimed Alan Duncan, MP for Rutland & Melton) "at home with her". And if they had their way, suggested Duncan, a lot of other Opposition MPs would

mysterious and alluring his Right Hon Friend the ter to answer? Well, said foreign lady entered the Prime Minister ever been at Maior, he was "self-evidently home with her? Was he at home with her now? Mr Major looked bemused.

Many think that when God saw how small Alan Duncan was going to be. He made him Bolshie to compensate. But I believe that when God saw how Bolshie Mr Duncan was going to turn out. He made him tiny to limit the damage. Imagine an MP with Nicholas Soames's frame and Alan Duncan's nature. How was the Prime Minisnot at home" with this model.

yesterday, by Mr Duncan. She is the European Social Model. It is with her that Robin Cook admits to being at home, and John Major denies cohabita-tion. She has been in all the newspapers and is accused of subverting the German workforce. Duncan finished his question with a claim (Labour's tax plans) which echoed not just the spirit but



the letter of a new Tory poster. Labour backbenchers par-rot, likewise, their own party's posters: "You can't trust the Tories on tax," etc. The parliamentary plankton on both sides do so on the whispered instructions of spin doctors. The aim of these night creatures is to scatter across their backbenches the seed of ran-

corous, mean-minded little quotes so that each day pro-duces a reliable crop of TV. radio and press soundbites which are "on-message To this, then, has the Mother of Parliaments now come: MPs debate by shouting out quotations from their parties'

roadside billboards. Truly, the dumbing down of Westminster is complete.
John Major promised Alan Duncan never to touch the offending lady. Who needs a European Social Model when he has Norma?

The finger of suspicion had touched Tony Blair, too. Where were you last night? shouted the Tories as he slunk in, rather guiltily, just in time for PM's Questions. At the division 17 hours earlier, Mr Blair had been strangely missing from his place on the Front Bench when the tellers marched in with unwelcome arithmetic for Labour whips, after the vote on BSE. By his own side he was greeted yesterday not so much with a cheer as a whimper.

Mr Blair came back hard with some powerful questions on profiteering after railway privatisation. To them Mr Major had no answer, but his own side cheered him lustily anyway. For the moment he

Nor could Andrew Robathan (C. Blaby), who had learnt about the way Robin Cook slapped down his party's

too-hastily-touted proposals to privatise the Tote. Had the PM studied the form for the fiveo'clock at Market Rasen?" asked Robathan. There was a horse running "called Pause

ochook on jam and wick

For Thought" Fell at the first fence," said

We moved to Devolution. Thursday's debate, the Prime Minister told the Commons, should be "an opportunity for detailed and sensible discussion". "What? Here?" cried Dennis Skinner Skinner is

Euro-MPs direct anger at Britain over BSE crisis

By CHARLES BREMNER, IN BRUSSELS, AND ANDREW PIERCE

of the European Union's anger over "mad cow" disease today when the European London's handling of the BSE epidemic. calls for repayment of EU compensation and seeks court proceedings against Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister

The harsh judgment is set out in a report by a parliamentary inquiry that also blames the European Commission for incompetence and negligence. In an attempt to head off a possible vote of censure, Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, yesterday went further than before in conceding mistakes in Brus-

He ridiculed British claims that BSE was an act of nature and blamed the epidemic on a greedy farm industry that had turned cows into "cannibals". In a move to defuse its conflict with the Commission, the Parliament is expected to suspend a possible vote of censure and give M Santer until November to reform its ways.

Downing Street yesterday dismissed the report as illinformed "tosh". It is expected to be passed with a large iority in Strasbourg toda "It is a flawed piece of work." said a spokesman. There are a great number of factual errors and misunderstanding of the UK's approach to BSE." The report, drafted under Spanish and German leadership, lambasted London for conducting an irresponsible policy over BSE from the mid-

disease was neglected for The Parliament will endorse a call by the inquiry committee

1980s until late last year. Britain, it argued, stacked Brussels committees with its

own experts, ensuring that the

for the Commission to enforce the repayment of £500 million compensation paid to British farmers for the slaughter of cattle. The report calls for the Commission to order Mr Hogg before the European Court for defying a summons to appear before the inquiry.

But aides of Mr Hogg said last night that he had invited committee members to meet him for lunch when they came to London in December. They declined to meet him," said one official.

Mr Hogg was given unanimous Cabinet support, backed



in Britain's defence

by advice from the Government's law officers, not to go before the European committee of inquiry. "It was not a request from the committee, it was a summons. Ministers of the Crown are answerable to the House of Commons, It was unanimously agreed by the Cabinet that Douglas Hogg should not go. We provided every piece of documentation they sought," he added. A spokesman for M Santer

said the call for repayment would not be followed up basis and it would penalise British farmers directly.

MEPs argued that their demands have served as a strong public rebuke for the ission and especially for Britain. The parliamentary

condemnation has added to

difficulties in restoring British beef's reputation in Europe. Pauline Green, the British MEP who heads the Socialist group, condemned the Govrrument but added that the Commission was "culpable". "Its procedures were sham-

bolic," she said. A rare voice in Britain's defence was raised by Lord Plumb, the Conservative MEP who sat on the committee of inquiry. "The idea that within the Commission there has been some sort of British conspiracy is utterly fanciful and unworthy of report in this House," he said.

Downing Street released the text of a strongly-worded letter from Sir Stephen Wall. Britain's permanent representa-tive in Brussels, to Reimer Boge, the German MEP who chaired the inquiry. He said that the Government-had spent £60 million on research into BSE and related diseases since 1986. He said it was "absurd" and "insulting" to accuse scientists, who had conducted groundbreaking research, of being engaged in a

The tone of the report infuriated Tory Eurosceptic MPs. David Heathcoat Amory, the former Paymaster General, said: "The fact that they had a chance to meet Douglas Hogg in London, when they were here, and turned it down shows the scale of their arrogance. They only want it on their terms. In Brussels, this is all about their own self-



MP loses court fight against deselection

By James Landale, Political Reporter

CONSERVATIVE MP George Gardiner lost his latest attempt to remain in Parliament when a High Court judge yesterday refused to overturn his deselection. Members of his Reigate

party ousted the veteran Eurosceptic at a special general meeting in the Surrey constituency on January 30 after the MP criticised the Prime Minister. Lawyers for Sir George claimed that the Reigate Conservative Association had no power, under its rules, to deselect him. And they argued that even if the association did have the pow-

er, they went about it. wrong way. However, Sir Richard Scott. Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, ruled that the association had every right to deselect their prospective parliamentary candidate and re-jected Sir George's writ demanding that the deselec-tion be declared void.

There is nothing in the rules that bars a deselection process by a general meeting," Sir Richard told the court. After the judgment. Sir George, 61, said he would not appeal but insisted he didnet regret taking legal activities.

Nursery school failings common

BY DAVID CHARTER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE most far-reaching investigation of education standards for four-year-olds has found shortcomings in almost half of the nursery schools

Basic literacy education was found to be weak in one in five nursery groups and in one in four for mathematics. The results, from more than 320 centres in the four trial areas of the Government's nursery voucher scheme, camé a week before parents of all four-year-olds will begin receiving vouchers to use from April.

More than 500,000 families have so far applied for the vouchers, worth El,100 towards the cost of a nursery place for a year. Parents can exchange them for state nursery or reception places or top them up for private education. Labour called the findings dire" but the Government said it was pleased that the majority of classes had been given a clean bill of health.

The Pre-School Playgroups Alliance said it was impressed that four in five nurseries passed their inspection for literacy, given their record of being underfunded.

Inspectors found "overall strengths" in 55 per cent of the groups, which were in school reception classes, playgroups and private and voluntary nurseries in Norfolk and the London boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth and Westminster. However, almost all the playgroups and nurseries will continue to be eligible for the vouchers. The 45 per-cent with "weaknesses". will have to show improvements when they are inspected again within two years...

The inspectors concluded: "Sound practice and provision are sufficiently widespread to show that all types of institutions are able to meet the requirements of the scheme. It is true, however, that weaknesses are also widespread.

New steps against art smugglers ruled out

The Government yesterday refused to impose new controls on the smuggling of art treasures into Britain, despite allegations that staff at Sotheby's had been involved in the illegal export of an 18th-century painting and that the practice is widespread within the art trade. It is not against practice is widespread within the art trade, it is not against British law to import antiquities that have been illegally excavated and exported from their countries of origin. Lord Inglewood, the junior National Heritage minister, told the Lords at Question Time: "We believe the London art market is important for this country and we wish to maintain its position." He urged proper self-regulation.

Lottery grant for river banks

The biggest lottery grant awarded to a public arts scheme will be used to line the banks of the Tyne and Wear with sculpture. Works by international artists and local amateurs will transform the riversides after yesterday's announcement by the Arts Council that the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation is to receive £3.58 million, the largest of 49 lottery awards totalling almost £11 million.

Gales kill lorry driver

Strong winds and rain that swept Britain yesterday, killing a lorry driver, will continue into the weekend, the Met Office said last night. Drivers were told to take extra care as felled trees and power cables caused chaos on the roads and large vehicles were toppled by gusts of up to 60mph. After a quieter period this morning, winds will sweep across the country from the west.

Swiss trip for Bosnian girl

The Bosnian orphan girl at the centre of an adoption dispute is to fly out to Switzerland to see her natural grandfather after a High Court judge ruled she should be raised by her British foster parents. Lawyers acting for the extended family of four-year-old Edita Keranovic said yesterday that they were still considering an appeal against the decision that the child should stay with Alan and Deborah Fowler.

Killer rapist gets life

A rapist was given a life sentence yesterday for murdering a counsellor who had visited him in prison. Tony Hallett, 39, subjected his 58 year-old victim to a sex attack almost Exeter Crown Court, Hallett, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire admitted raping and killing Ruth Hunt after he went to her home and she invited him in for advice and a cup of tea.

Four arrested in Irish raids

Police in the Irish Republic arrested four men yesterday during a series of anti-terrorist raids. Armed police seized homemade detonating cord similar to that used in IRA attacks in London, Germany and Northern Ireland. A police spokesman said the cords would be examined by forensic scientists in Dublin. The four men were arrested in Co Westmeath and on the Co Waterford and Tipperary border.

Silent vigil in Dunblane

Families of the victims of the Dunblane massacre will hold a silent vigil on the site of the gym where 16 children and a teacher were killed to mark the first anniversary of the shootings. Durblane Primary School will be closed until 10.30am on March 13 to allow relatives to grieve in private. The only public show of sorrow will be at 7pm when white candles will be lit in the windows of homes across the town.

Kidnapped baby found

A British missionary was reunited with her 14-month-old adopted son four days after he was kidnapped from the family home in the Malawian city of Blantyre. Timothy Funnell was found unharmed by two schoolboys on a riverbank. The baby, who is at the centre of a custody battle in South Africa, was adopted last year by Julia Funnell, 30, from Bow, east London, and her husband Barry.

Soccer fans win damages

Five Irish soccer fans who sued the Football Association of Ireland for injuries sustained when rioting erupted at the match between England and Ireland in Dublin in 1995 accepted out-of-court settlements at the city's Circuit Civil Court. The FAI agreed to pay an undisclosed sum to the men who claimed they suffered serious injuries when English fans rioted at Landsdowne Road.

Tax inspector guilty of corruption is facing jail

Continued from page I leagues now face an internal disciplin-ary inquiry as a result of the scandal easily the most serious corruption incident the Revenue has faced - with possible sanctions ranging up to and including dismissal. In addition, there has been a major

overhaul of supervisory procedures so opportunities for abusing the system are severely restricted. Inspectors are now obliged to decline all but the most petty gifts, hospitality or entertainment. Only trivial items such as diaries can be accepted. There is much tighter control on overseas travel - only about 20 trips in all were made last year and they must never be at the expense of a suspected tax evader.

Staff movement between offices has

inspectors developing excessively lengthy relationships with suspects. When promoted to the grade of group leader, the rank enjoyed by Allcock, senior inspectors are no longer allowed to head up an office in which they have worked.

The Revenue insisted that, in any case. Alloock never enjoyed the latitude of which he boasted during his trial. He told the Old Bailey that he worked to his own rules but, in theory at least, in any case in which the suspected tax evader was believed to have owed more than £150,000, he was supposed to refer his proposed settlement upwards, to a principal inspector.

The procedural tightening was part-ly a reaction to the Allcock case, and

partly an outcome of the 1992 merger of the Revenue's Special Offices with its Inquiry Branch, forming the Special Compliance Office — nicknamed the Ghostbusters. That office is tasked with investigating cases of serious tax fraud and evasion outside the scope of local offices because of their size or complexity. It seeks to recover the lost tax, with interest and penalties where due, and in particularly serious cases

to institute criminal proceedings. In 1995-96 it recovered £354 million. The Old Bailey heard how Allcock accepted foreign travel, meals in expensive restaurants and other favours worth tens of thousands of

One of his rewards was a £22,000 "holiday of a lifetime" with his family to Bermuda with Concorde flights. The trip was paid for by Ara Oztenel, an American-based Armenian business man who had been assessed as liable for £2 million in British tax. Allcock, who could face a maximum

of seven years in jail, yesterday had his bail withdrawn by Judge Beaumont and was led down to the cells. Before the verdicts, he had protested his innocence. "The scatter gun approach of these charges show how desperate they were to get me. All I care about is

my wife and son Benjamin.

They [the Inland Revevue] were always niggardly in their praise. They always wanted the wine glass filled but when you went out from scratch and got it half-filled that was an achievement they may never have gained."

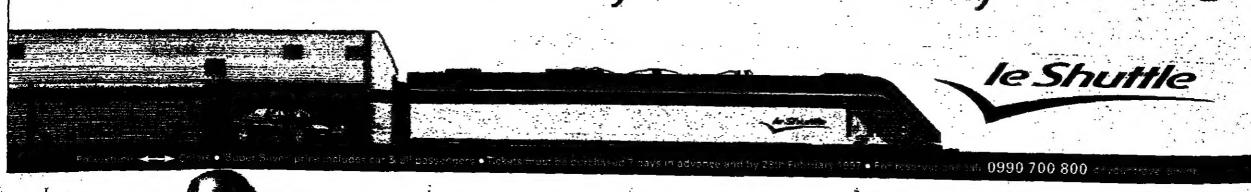




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Seven-year-old used to sweat, scream and make himself sick on other food

Doctors help boy hooked on jam sandwiches

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

ate nothing but jam sand-wiches for three years has finally managed to beat his addiction after hospital treat-

Craig Flatman, from Stow-market, Suffolk, refused to eat anything other than strawberry or raspberry jam with margarine on two slices of white bread after developing an aversion to solid food as a

baby.
After chomping through about 20,000 jam sandwiches, his despairing mother Almira finally took her son to see specialists at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and, with gentle persuasion. Craig has now tasted fruit, meat and vegetables for the first time.

Yesterday, Mrs Flatman, 35, recalled how she got through five loaves of bread and two jars of jam every week making her son nine rounds of jam sandwiches for his breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. "He used to insist that I cut the crusts off, only use soft margarine and soft-set jam because he did not want anything with humps in," Mrs Flatman said.

He refused to eat solid food as a baby until, when he was nine months, his father Alan fed him a sandwich with a: sugar filling. It led to an initial infatuation with chocolate spread sandwiches until, when he was four, Craig announced he did not want them any more and asked for

"We used to try to make him

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD who eat other things almost every mealtime. But he just used to sweat, shake, scream and make himself sick. In the end it was so stressful that we could not carry on trying to

> When he began hospital treatment, Craig slowly began to get over his fear of food over a six-month period by playing with it and eventually taking tiny bites. Now, in common with most other children, his favourites are chips, baked beans, pizzas, pancakes and

> Mandy Bryon, consultant clinical psychologist at Great Ormand Street, said it was normal for children to be faddy about food at some stage, but Craig's case was fairly exceptional.

"I think his problem stems from a fear of food, probably going back to when he first started eating solids as a baby and gagged on some lumps. We encouraged him to become familiar with it through touch-ing it and eventually tasting

Astonishingly, Craig has never had a filling in his life, while his five-year-old sister Amy, who eats normally, has two. Mrs Flatman said last night. "He still has a long way to go, but he is trying new things every day and getting more confident with food. Mrs Flatman added.

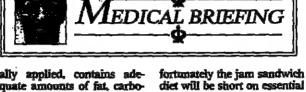
But he has still not given up jam completely. I allow him one round of jam sandwiches in his school packed lunch and another of cheese



Jammy dodger: Craig Flatman refused to eat anything other than white bread jam sandwiches for three years

Odd tastes need not make you sick

PARENTS like their children to eat a standard diet, it makes them feel good. But is a traditional choice of food essential to their offspring's wellbeing? Before a diet can be condemned as unhealthy it should be analysed to find out whether it contains a correct balance of fats, carbohydrates and protein - the principal ingredients of any sustaining menu - together with the necessary trace elements and vitamins. Jam sandwiches as a child's sole food is obviously less than ideal but is more comprehensive than it may sound. A jam sandwich, if butter or margarine is liber-



amino acids because there is

no animal protein, but there will be some vegetable pro-tein. It is likely that a child fed

only on jam sandwiches is

likely to suffer anaemia, and

some protein deficiency. The

diet would also be short on

The interesting question is

vitamin C.

ite amounts of fat, carbohydrate both in the sugar in the jam and as polysaccharides, together with the fatsoluble vitamins. Provided that the wheat was grown on the correct soil there will also be adequate trace elements.

Jam sandwiches will, too. if the bread is wholemeal, provide plenty of roughage. Unmined to have nothing else and reject the health-giving, parent-comforting, meat and two vegetables for so long? One of my sons when about two or three lived for a great

months on Spam, Dad's Cookies, a form of biscuit impregnated with pieces of chocolate, and some rather tasty multi-vitamin pills. His physical progress was unimpeded and after a time he went back to standard

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

England bowler dismisses bar's drug allegation

By ALAN LEE AND SIMON WILDE

THE England cricketer Philip Tufnell yesterday described as "ridiculous" allegations that he smoked cannabis in a Christchurch bar on the eve of England's victory in the third Test match in Chirstchurch.

His denial won the support of the team management, who backed his word against that of the bar's manageress and a waitress. But the story tainted the England team and deflected attention from the result of the match.

Tufnell has a long and turbulent record of indiscipline, and the allegation of drug-taking was potentially sensational. So too, was the timing, applying an unwanted strain and distraction to the England camp on the day their tour efforts had to stand

It was claimed that the spin bowler and two unnamed companions - neither of them connected to the England team - smoked cannabis on Monday evening in the dis-abled toilet of the fashionable Bardellis café bar in the centre of Christchurch.

They were the only ones to use the toilet and there was smoke billowing under the door into the restaurant." Caitlin Cherry, the waitress, said. "You could smell it, so we had to do something." She added that an English family.

"apologised profusely" for the behaviour of Tufnell's group, who were asked to leave.

They were laughing hysterically. They were having a really good time." Janelle Rossiter, the manageress, told TV3, a local television station. "He [Tufnell] wasn't drunk, but he certainly couldn't drive

... I was informed by my staff they were smoking joints in a disabled toilet. I told my staff to follow them the next time they went in."

Tufnell said of the allegation as he left the ground after the In fact, it makes me laugh. It's ridiculous." It was not going to prevent him from joining the team's victory celebrations, "I am still going to go out for a few beers tonight. I'm looking forward to that."

John Barclay, the team manager, unequivocally exon-erated him. "I am aware of the allegations and they are very serious," he said. "But I have spoken to Phil at length and very frankly and I am completely satisfied that they are ithout foundation."

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the English Cricket Board, said:"I assume there is some mischief making going on," adding that as far as the board was concerned Tufnell would not face action over the claims.

Cricket, page 48



poisoning 'had role in shooting'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

A FARMER who tried to murder a man living on his farm may have become mentally imbalanced after repeated exposure to a sheep-dip chemical, a court was told yesterday. Billings. of

Warninglid, West Sussex, is accused of attempting to kill George Poster, who lived as a tenant in a caravan on the farm and whom he suspected of having an affair with his girlfriend. Lewes Crown Court was

told that on an evening in November 1993, Mr Billings had fired at Mr Foster with a shotgun, leaving him perma-nently disabled. The men and Mr Billings's girlfriend, Ursu-la Jenner, had been drinking in local pubs that day.

James Townend, for the prosecution, told the jury they

were dealing with a case of drunken rage and it may well be misplaced jealousy. But they must also consider whether sheep-dip poisoning had affected Mr Billings's state of mind, possibly in conjunction with alcohol.

The key issue, Mr Townend said, was whether poisoning had affected the defendant's ability "to form the required intent" to shoot Mr Foster. ming either to kill him or inflict grievous bodily harm. The trial continues.

Sheep-dip Husband 'blew up wife to live with young mistress'

A HUSBAND doused his wife is petrol and blew up their house so that he could use £100,000 life assurance to set up home with his young mistress, a court was told esterday.

Rossano Traversari, 31, bound and gagged his wife Alison before their suburban home exploded "like a volcano". When her badly charred body was found by fire officers from the station where she worked as a controller, Mr Traversari said that the couple had been victims of intruders.

John Warren, QC, for the prosecution, told Stafford Crown Court that her death was "the old story of the eternal triangle, and partly greed". Shortly after the cou-ple's marriage in 1992. Mr Traversari had begun an affair with Catherine Boycott, a student. They had met when he was restaurant manager of the Garth Hotel in Stafford and she took a holiday job as a

The Traversaris split up when Mrs Traversari discovered the affair, but she forgave her husband and took him back. Mr Traversari continued his relationahip with Ms Boycott, who started to put pressure on him to leave his wife, Mr Warren said. The big obstacle was money. Mrs Traversari

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT earned £15,000 a year but her husband, now a pallet supervisor for the glue maker Evode

in Stafford, was paid only half that sum. This was a man to whom material things were very important, such as his car, his home, his possessions, his clothing." Mr Warren said. "It's clear that the obstacle, in his mind, to leaving Alison was money. When the couple's semi-

detached house in Stafford was rocked by an explosion in the early hours, Mrs Traversari's badly burnt body, reeking of petrol, was found in a back bedroom. An airgun pellet was lodged in her head. Mr Traversari told the police that intruders had

blindfolded and gagged them but he had escaped when he smelt petrol. Mr Warren said various factors cast doubt on his story. The cable to an outside security light had been cut. His wife's car had been moved to garages near by. Mr Traversari had earlier taken a camcorder, portable television set and clothing to Leeds. where Ms Boycott lived.

A notebook containing an inventory of the items in his house, found at his workplace, was intended as the basis of his insurance claim, Mr War-Mr Traversari denies mur-

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RAC to wave the flag for all those who travel hopefully

THE RAC, founded a century ago to campaign for the abolition of the rule that all cars should be preceded by a man carrying a red flag, is to take up the cause of other travellers, including cyclists and pedestrians.

The former gentleman's driving club, which was granted royal patronage by Edward VII in 1907, announced yestera day that it wants to be known as a "mobility association" in future, rather than a motoring

Neil Johnson, the RAC's chief executive officer, said that membership could soon be extended to people who do not even own or drive cars but need the support of an organisation to promote their inter-

are only motorists part of the time. At other times they need - and wish - to move around by other means. They are clearly telling us that they support ideas such as pedestri-

anisation of key parts of our towns and cities." Cycling groups welcomed the RAC's conversion on the cycle path to Damascus" but expressed doubts whether it was driven by a genuine change of heart or short-term

commercial motives. Peter McGrath, spokesman for the Cyclists' Touring Club.

services to members. The Environmental Transport Association, a tiny "green" motor-ing group with just 42,000 members, already offers cyde rescue"

The RAC, which has six million members, has increasingly repositioned itself as an environmentally responsible body during the past five years. For its first 95 years, it was an unabashed member of the roads lobby, calling for ever more to be spent on

PCs in the industry with ATI Mach 64th Video Technology, and coupled with SGRAM for the very latest in 64 bit, cinema-quality graphics, is an incredible 130% faster than By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT the previous Bravo MS generation. Inside, an Intel 133 or 166 ests. "It is clear that the asked: "Are they going to continuation of such high support the rest of the cyclist MHz Pentium® processor and new 430HX PCI chipset continuation of such high combine with striking effect - allowing you to blast through tasks - while the agenda such as more traffic calming and less traffic in levels of dependence on the car for mobility is unsustainable, most advanced pipeline burst cache and EDO RAM available ensure the and indeed not what most towns and cities?" ultimate in system compatibility as well. Finally, all Bravo MS PCs The RAC will not be the first people want. Our members to offer cycling breakdown

Asians put riches down to Thatcherite values

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ASIAN millionaires together worth more than £4 billion gathered in London last night to celebrate the publication of a list of the 100 richest among them. Proudly declaring that their values of thrift, hard work and family life had outlasted their heroine. Baroness Thatcher, the businessmen and women toasted their success, mainly with soft drinks. at the Café Royal.

The 100 richest Asians employ 250,000 people around the world and own many high street brands, including Joe Bloggs Clothing, Horne Brothers, Ciro Citterio and Colorama, They are selfmade, almost to a man.

Forty-four of them richer than Mukhtar hidin, Britain's biggest Nat-

another has joined the family ional Lottery winner, who collected £17.8 million. business. A third son works in Anwar Parvez, joint sixth Hong Kong and his daughter richest at £100 million, walked

eight miles a day as a five-Top of the list is Lakshmi year-old schoolboy in Pakistan Mittal, from Calcutta, who made £1,500 million after but sent his own sons to Eton. spending 20 years in Indone-We were Thatcherites before sia creating the largest private steel company in the world, Margaret Thatcher," he said. We were told by our parents to live within our means. All Ispat. He hosts lavish parties our progress has been made at his home in Hampstead, without borrowing money."
Mr Parvez, who made his northwest London.

Mr Mittal is one of the fortune from the Bestway cash leading "NRIs" - non-resiand carry business, is a farmdent Indians - who are er's son who arrived in Britain attracted by Britain's tex laws in the 1950s. His first job was to make their home here. Other NRIs include Sri and as a bus conductor in Hinduja, brothers Bradford. A Muslim, he now Gopi whose oil and trade business lives in a large house with a tennis court in Buckinghamis worth -£1,100 million. They shire. One of his sons is are second on the list. reading law at Oxford and Third is Lord Paul, the

Labour peer, worth £500 million. Another Labour recruit. Mohammed Sarwar, a cashand-carry mogul worth £10 million and ranked 62nd, hopes to become MP for Glasgow Govan. Michael Heseltine, the Dep-

uty Prime Minister, addressed last night's gathering with an eye on the Asian vote. Lord Bagri, the chairman of the London Metal Exchange and a new Tory peer, is tenth on the list with £80 million. The youngest is Reuber

Singh. 20, who has made £27.5 million (28th place) running the fashion business Miss Attitude while reading financial services at Manchester Metropolitan University. There are a handful of women on the list. Perween

Warsi, despairing of finding a decent samosa in her Derby supermarket, is now worth £35 million after creating a food manufacturing business from her kitchen.

Swati Patel, still humble enough to answer the tele-phone at her family's car-care product firm in Northampton. trained as a pharmacy technician but joined her father's business. "I had nothing else to do. I was bored." Share transfers have increased her value to £9 million.

Family control is a common theme among those on the list. Many began as waiters or grocers and have remained in food, retail and trading.

Leading article, page 19



Lord Paul



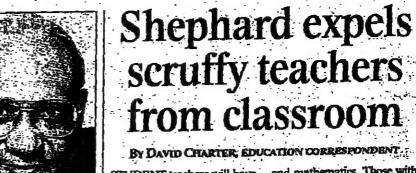
Sri Hinduja

Reuben Singh

Gopi Hinduja



Manubhai Madhvani



STUDENT teachers will have and mathematics. Those with to prove they can dress smartly as well as pass grammar and arithmetic tests before they can qualify, the Govern-

ment announced yesterday. Polished presentation skills are among the standards laid down in the proposed national curriculum for teacher training colleges. Traditional methods are emphasised, including whole-class teaching instead of lessons where groups or individuals work at their own

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said that she did not want "scruffy" teachers in classrooms any more than those who could not teach. "Young people are impressed by image. If they perceive that a teacher regards his or her work as important enough to warrant smart dress and good presentation, then they will accept teaching and think that it is an important job and that they are doing something important in

learning."
The new curriculum would ensure that teachers knew how to use phonics, the method of learning to read by teaching the sounds of letters and parts of words. It would also instruct trainees how best to teach mental arithmetic, including a return to chanting

multiplication tables. Trainee teachers will be required to have a minimum grade C in GCSE science, in addition to the existing mini-mum of C grades in English a C in mathematics will be expected to improve while on the course, to gain Qualified Teacher Status.

Primary school trainees should have at least one specialist subject at A-level standard and be lable to communicate clearly and grammatically". The prowill begin in September, followed by a new curriculum for secondary teacher training.

The standards for Qualified Teacher Status are expected to form the basis of a revamped appraisal system, announced earlier this month, which could be used to sack failing

teachers. Anthea Millett, chief executive of the Teacher Training Agency, said a significant number of training colleges would have to raise their performance. "These proposals will cause most institutions to make some adjustment in their courses, some a substantial adjustment," she said .: .

David Blunkett, the Shadow. Education Secretary, said Labour would introduce a probationary year for newlyqualified teachers. He said the Government had wasted 18 years before acting over teacher standards.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers; welcomed the proposals as "knocking on open doors for

BRITAIN'S RICHEST ASIANS

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- ferming) £140m
- 5 Tom Singh (fashion) £115m 6 Ratilal Chandaria (Industry) £100m
- 6 Anwar Parvez & tamily (food lessling) £100m
- ndustry) £100m
- 9 Nat Puri (Industry) £95m
- 10 Lord Bergi & Apury Begri (metal trade) £80m 10 Vijey Maliye (drinks & brewing) £80m 12 Gulu Laivani (electronics) £80m
- 13 Shami Ahmed & family (fashion) £500
- 13 Tehir Mohsen & Dr Shamin Mohamm
- imputer sales) £50m
- 18 Nisaim Musry (textiles) £30m 18 Maq Rasul (video rentala) £30m

18 Rajesh Passi (Importer and dis

18 Mukesh Sehgal (fashlonware) £30m 18 Reshmi Thakrar & family (rice importing

13 Naresh Putel & family (lood retailing and

film processing) 250m 16 Jasminder Singh & family (hotels) 240m

18 Shirazali Dheramshi & temity (property and

17 Perween & Dr Talib Warsi (food

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Horseshoe pupils race ahead

AN EXPERIMENT in which schoolchildren sit in a horseshoe pattern has begun to transform. standards for inner-city pupils, a conference heard yesterday (David Char-

The double horseshoe arrangement of desks, used in Switzerland and Taiwan, is being heraided as the saviour of "whole-class" teaching. Its success is based on mixing the two systems at the centre of controversy over classroom samen since victorianstyle rows began to be replaced by small groups in the because the system requires 1960s. The whole-class method pupils to take turns in explain-

is preserved because all the children feel involved in the lesson, as they can see each other and the teacher.

In turn, the teacher can see who is not coping. But the pattern also means children can break into groups more easily than when in rows.

Nine-year-olds in Barking and Dagenham, east London, showed marked improve-ments in grades after a trial year using the horseshoe class. for mathematics lessons. They about speaking in public.

ing their work to the whole

Researchers from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research told a seminar at the Department of Trade and Industry that the system could help to revive whole-class teaching for a new generation. It would answer critics who characterise the whole-class method as preach-

ing from the front Professor Sig Prais, senior research fellow at the institute, explain why Swiss children consistently autperformed

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Anonymous phonecalls, a prowler and 'general sense of unease' led family of Billie-Jo to seek new home

Parents of murder victim had wanted to move from area

THE legal guardians of the murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins were so concerned house in the weeks before the killing that they had decided to move, it emerged yesterday. Sion Jenkins, 39, and his

wife Lois, 35, struggled to retain their composure as they described the "loving, articu-late and helpful" girl who brought joy to their family and adored her four sisters. The couple, who became Billie-Jo's legal guardians three months ago after foster-

ing her for five years, said police were aware of their worries about security around their home in Hastings. Billie-Jo. 13, suffered severe head injuries when she was attacked with a metal tent

home on Saturday. The first person to see her body was her ten-year-old sister Lottie, who is deeply traumatised. The couple's other children Maya, 7, Esther, 9, and Annie, 2, are also in shock. There was a sense of un-

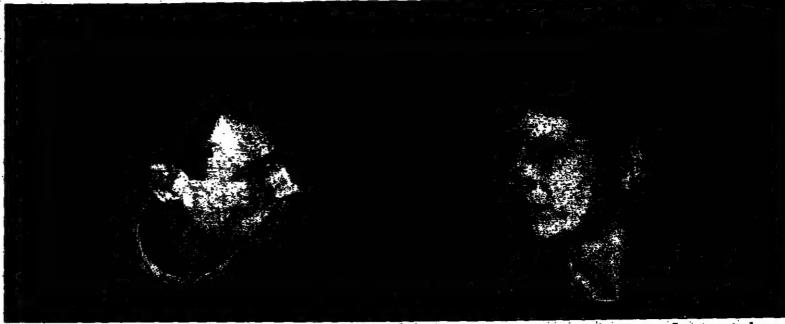
ease from January culminat-ing to the extent that we wanted to sell the house and had looked at another house in the Old Town of Hastings with a view to moving there," Mr Jenkins said. There was just a general feeling of un-comfortableness that some members of my family felt about individuals who always seemed to be around."

Mr Jenkins, deputy head at William Parker comprehensive school for boys in Has-tings, had disturbed a prowler in his garden 12 days before the killing. His description of a man in his forties wearing a leather jacket hanging around the house matches a descrip-tion given by Billie-Jo of a man she feared was stalking her. Detectives from Sussex Police appealed yesterday for further information about this man.

In an emotional tribute to

the girl. Mr Jenkins said: "As a family we are totally devaswhy my daughter has been murdered. Billie-Jo was loving and supportive to her four sisters. She was buoyant, ar-ticulate, quick to learn and fun-loving. She had numerous ambitions and brought joy into the lives of everyone. She was a perceptive young woman who enjoyed life to the

The couple were particularly concerned about a derelict house next door to their semi-



Sion and Lois Jenkins, legal guardians of Billie-Jo, recalled a "loving, articulate and helpful" girl at a police press conference yesterday

which has been boarded up for a year, is due to be converted into a home for mentally handicapped people. Mrs Jenkins said a neigh-

bour reported worries about the house to police before. Christmas. "There were people frequently going in and out of the house," Mrs Jenkins said. Police were also called to the Jenkins's home in Decem-

ber when a neighbour reported seeing a man peering into a. front window.

The family did not tell police about the man in the leather jacket or a series of "heavy breathing" telephone calls they received in January. "It's very difficult for us to

dissociate the events over the last three weeks from the murder," Mr. Jenkins said. don't know whether it is specifically linked to Billie or whether if Annie or Lottie had been in the house at that place at that time whether it might have been them."

The family, who moved to Hastings from east London in 1993 when Mr Jenkins won his current post, were very security conscious. "As parents we are generally concerned for .

never permitted them to go out Billie-Jo was encouraged to

maintain contact with her natural parents in east London While she always called Mrs Jenkins "Mum", she sometimes called Mr Jonkins "Sion" when she was with her natural family, he said. They were "grieving London", Mr Jenkins said.

the inquiry, emphasised that the investigation was continuing despite the arrest of a 44year-old local man on Monday. He has since been released on police ball into mericali

The man had been seen knocking on doors asking for accommodation in the East Sussex town on the day of the

Foster child had loved her new life by the sea

ACCORDING to friends, Billie lo Jenkins spent the happiest years of her life in daughters, whom she came to regard as her sisters.

After a troubled childhood in east London, she was fostered by Lois Jenkins, a social services department project manager with Tower Hamlets Council in east London and her husband Sion. The couple, with their four natural daughters, gave Billie-Jo the stability and sec-

The placement was so suc-cessful that on December 19 last year her natural parents agreed that she should be dence order with the Jenkins, taking her out of foster care, although maintaining contact with her real mother and

Billie-Jo's life in Hastings, where the family moved in 1993, was in sharp contrast to her upbringing in east London Her natural father, William "Billy" Jenkins, 45, is an unemployed painter and decorator who has served several spells in prison for handling stolen goods. His marriage to her natural mother, Deborah Kim Wood, was

According to a former girlfriend, who declined to be named, Mr Jenkins has at least two other children from different relationships. There was a son born before Billie-Jo and a daughter who is Mr Jenkins, 45, is believed

last to have seen his daughter at Christmas at a family gathering in Forest Gate, east London. The meeting was organised by Billy's sister Maggie, who had a close relationship with Billie-Jo. relationship with Billie-Jo. Billie-Jo's grandfather, who is also called Billy, attended the

family gathering.
Billy-Jo's father comes originally from Leytonstone, east London, but in recent weeks moved into a one-bedroom-flat near Plaistow. He is unemployed. Neighbours described Mr Jenkins as a

ways been a bit nervy. He even as a young man." Billy-lo's new family

bought a five-bedroom Victorism house in Hastings. A family friend said yesterday. When Billie Jo came to Has-tings at the age of ten she was a fun-loving little girl who was very excited by the idea of living by the seaside in a big house. She was quite streetwise for her age and missed some of her friends from her primary school in the East End, but soon settled

The Jenkins were ideal foster parents, she said, young and enthusiastic with

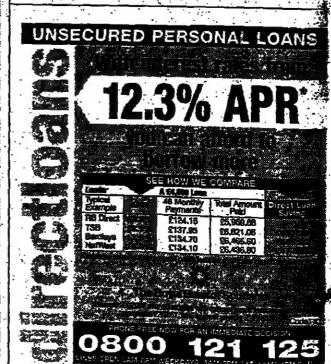


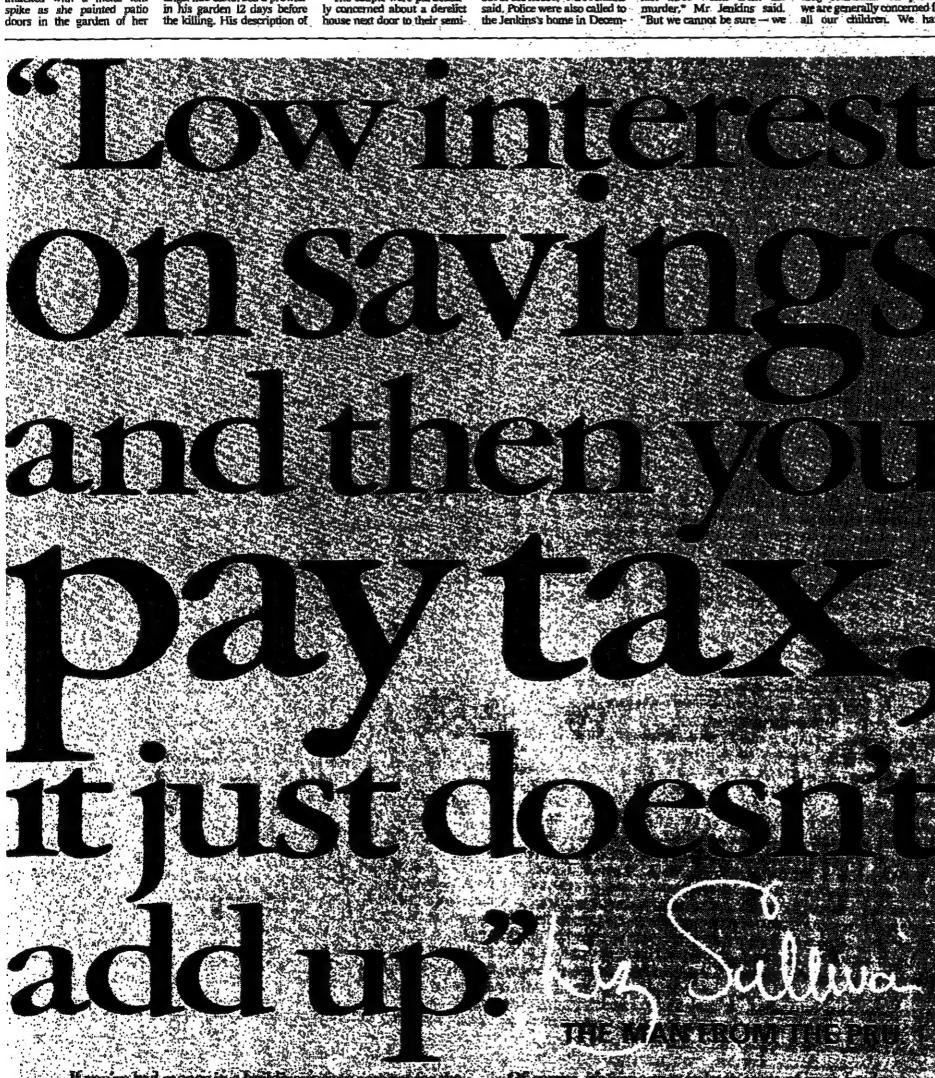
Billie-Jo: last saw real father at Christmas

'Until all the troubles with stalkers and funny phone calls just before Christmas it was a very happy home."

At Helenswood comprehensive school for girls in

Hastings, Billie-Jo's favourite subject at school was drama and she wanted to become an actress. Jenny Blackburn, her headmistress, said: "She fitted in very well with her foster family. She didn't have a strong cockney accent and you would have never guessed she was fostered." She took part in a recent production of My Fair Lady and had just suditioned for and won a part in Table and won a part in Crucible. The school yesterday that the producti would be dedicated to her.





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Americans' dream ended as they let cats out of the bag

A COUPLE'S dream of moving to Britain from America was shattered because France gives no warning to travellers about this country's strict ra-

Yesterday a magistrate criticised French officials, as well as British customs officers at Waterloo station, who seized two cats belonging to Gianni and Astrid De Biagi, trom Miami.

The couple maintained they were unaware of the law governing the importation of animals when they brought Frenchie and Flannel into the country in a holdall on the Eurostar from Paris, where they had been staying with relatives. The animals, which had rabies immunisation certificates from Miami, had passed through X-ray ma-chines in Paris and been waved through customs.

On arrival at Waterloo, Mrs. De Biagi, 34, told customs officers she had nothing to declare but asked them to be careful when searching her bags as her cats were inside. The cats were immediately taken away, Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court was told.

Judy Ranjeet, for the De Biagis, said they were travelling to London for Mrs De Biagi to attend a three-week course with Air France, after which she was due to start a

She lost the job after missing a session to appear in court.

custody which was completely traumatic for somebody who

has never been in that situa-

Mrs Keating conditionally

discharged Mrs De Biagi for

six months with no costs. As

they left court, Mr De Biagi

said the arrest had cost them

£2,000 and had destroyed

their dream of moving to

to have to go through this because of a political ping-

pong game between two coun-

Mr and Mrs De Biagi and

the cats will now return to

Miami. Mr De Biagi said:

We were looking forward to

starting a new life here and

now that's been destroyed. We

heard from so many people

what a great city London is,

but our first time over here

we're arrested and put through all this. Now we just

want to get out of here and go

back home with our tails

tries is ridiculous."

England. For innocent peop

After hearing the story. Rosamond Keating, the magistrate, said: "I think some-thing ought to be done about signs in Paris. How an earth is someone travelling from Miami to Paris supposed to know as a matter of general know-ledge that England has strict quarantine rules and continues to be an island, despite the

Mrs Keating also expressed ber disapproval of customs at Waterloo after being told that animal health inspectors had said that anti-rabies vaccination certificates obtained by Mrs De Biagi in Miami were invalid. They had rabies vac-cination certificates. It's quite clear they aren't any danger to England. Are we saying Miami is such a corrupt place that their certificates aren't acceptable in this polite little society of Britain?"

Ms Ranjeet said Mrs De Biagi, who was charged with had paid £140 to have them flown from Miami to her parents' home in Paris and would have left them with her mother had she known it was illegal to bring them to Engunaware of this country's re-



Frenchie and Flannel with an assistant at the quarantine unit at Heathrow

Admiral 'claimed a £6,000 pay rise'

A RETIRED admiral asked for a £6,000 pay rise within three months of becoming a £23,600-a-year harbourmaster, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

When Hampshire County Council refused Rear-Admiral Tim England's request, he took the law into his own hands" and refused to supply the council with financial information. Tim Howard, for the council, said Admiral England, 54, was effectively hold-

ing the council to ransom.

The council tried to stop the admiral's "unacceptable behaviour" by holding a disciplinary meeting last May. Admiral England had said that if the disciplinary matters against him were revoked, the financial information would be available, Mr Howard

On a later occasion the admiral had told a superior that if he were not addressing him by his Christian name — and he would prefer that he did not - then he should address him with the title of rear-admiral. Admiral England is claiming





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Tull: died while leading soldiers into action

and army officer By RICHARD DUCE

Gianni and Astrid De Biagi outside court yesterday

Soccer to salute

first black striker

A MEMORIAL garden is planned to mark the career of

a black professional football-

er and army officer who was killed while leading white

soldiers into action during the

Second Battle of the Somme

nearly 80 years ago. Walter Tull, who is thought

to have been Britain's first

black officer, was cut down by

German fire on March 25,

testimony to a second lieuten-

ant who became the world's first black professional strik-

er. Northampton Town, for

whom Mr Tull played before

he enlisted in 1914, hopes to

raise £3,000 to build a memo-

rial garden to its former wing-

Mr Tull's great-great-neph-ew, Graham Humphrey, 38,

of Maidstone, Kent, said:
"History seems to have forgotten the significance of his

A simple inscription on a war memorial at Arras in France is to date the only

1918. He was 29.

markable character, an officer and a gentleman. Walter Daniel Tull was born in Folkestone in 1888 to a Barbadian father and a local woman, who both died before he was ten. He and his brother Edward were placed in an east London orphanage.

Edward, adopted by a Scottish family, became Britain's first black dentist. Walter, after a spell with Clapton Football Club in east London, signed for Tottenham Hotspur as a centre-forward. He was the earliest victim of racial abuse in football, during a match at Bristol City.

He moved to the Midlands Northampton Town, where he played wing half in more than 100 first-team games, scoring nine goals before the outbreak of war. He enlisted with the 7th Middlesex (Footballers' Bat-

Last month, third division Northampton Town held a memorial match for Mr Tull against Chester to mark the adoption of an equal opportunities policy. Brian Lomax, a director of the club, said: Walter Tull was a local hero when he played here." Bernie Grant, the Tottenham Labour MP, is lobbying for the north London Premiership side to hold a similar match.

The Defence Ministry said: Walter Tull is listed as a second lieutenant but there is no mention of colour in our record. As a result it is impossible to say whether he was the first black officer, but we are proud he was one of many prepared to give up their life for this country."



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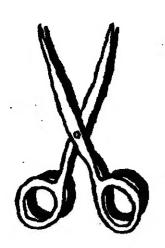
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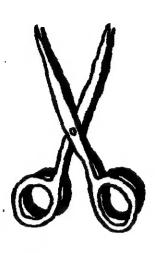
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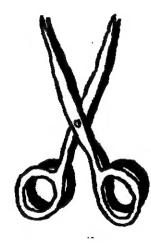
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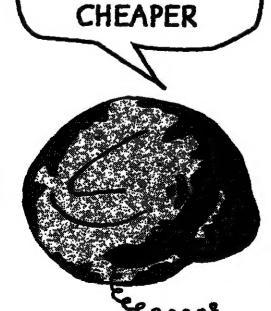
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Social worker acted after patient said she did not care if baby died, court told

Woman claims Caesarean was unlawful

A PREGNANT woman held in hospital against her will and forced to undergo a Caesarean section was said yesterday to have had no interest in her own survival or her child's.

The unmarried mother from southwest London, who cannot be named, was suffering "suicidal fanta-sies" when confined last April. She had also talked of punishing her former partner and hoped that he would feel guilty if she died, the High Court was told.

The allegations came as "Miss S" asked for permission to apply for judicial review against the hospitals that detained her under the 1983 Mental Health Act and then obtained

Caesarean section, after fears about her physical health.

Lawyers for the 29-year-old woman argue that it was unlawful to detain and treat her, and that the medical authorities contravened the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act. Miss S says that as a result of being denied her legal right to oppose the action of the medical authorities she suffered physical and mental anguish and

The case was adjourned yesterday by Mr Justice Stuart-White, who said that another judge more experienced in judicial review applications should

take his place. Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, told the court that an uninformed media campaign was threatening to damage the reputation of the social said that his client, Louize Collins, employed by the London Borough of Merton, had been called by a GP who had expressed fears about the mental state of Miss S - then about

36 weeks pregnant. Lord Lester read a statement from Ms Collins in which she said Miss S had been adamant that she would not accept any treatment for pre-eclampsia, a dangerous condition involving high-blood pressure. When told that both she and her unborn baby would probably die, Miss S had said: "So

The social worker said that Miss S referred several times "to how she would be glad to punish her ex-partner and hoped he would feel relationship was over, but was unable to explain how she was going to be delivered of the baby without intervention". Ms Collins's statement added: "It was as if she wanted to

wish it away or have it die."
Miss S, whose ten-month-old daughter was at nursery yesterday, indicated more than once that "a dead baby would be a solution as she in no way wanted it", the court was told. Ms Collins and two doctors agreed that intervention was required under the 1983 Mental Health Act and it would have been negligent not to respond to "Miss S's clear need

for help".
Outside court Miss S said: "I was prepared to take the risk that both of

worker who had formally applied for guilty if she died." She "talked about us would die for principles I feel very Miss S to be detained in hospital. He not wanting the baby now the strongly about." She was not disappoint that his direct leaves to the strongly about. strongly about." She was not disap-pointed with the judge's decision to adjourn the case and said: "I don't mind if I have to wait a couple of months or even a couple of years. It is

that important to me."
Miss S said she disliked medical procedures and wanted a home birth. Pregnancy is a natural process. I don't believe in ending it in the environment of a hospital with all the pressures and lack of privacy," she said. "People had been having babies for many years before hospitals were

"It is a matter of public concern that hospitals can use underhand means to force patients to have treatment they have quite clearly stated they don't wish to have.

Police chief's wife says she stands by her man

By ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND MARK HENDERSON

THE wife of the former police officer appointed to clean up Australia's most corrupt force made an ex-traordinarily public statement yesterday to deny rumours that their marriage had broken down. Adrienne Ryan, whose embattled husband, Peter, was appointed the New South Wales police commissioner last year, sent an open letter to a Sydney newspaper to tell him: "Sweetheart, I love you. Don't let the

heart, I love you. Don't let the hastards grind you down."

Mrs Ryan's statement, which was splashed across the front page of the Sydney Daily Telegraph, followed allegations that she had re-turned to Britain because their manifest area in because their marriage was in trouble. She insisted: "I adore my husband, for he is all that anyone could ask of a husband and a father, devoted. loving and caring without reservation and we have a strong and enduring

marriage."
"If it were not so then I would not be able to be in England now in order to complete my education."



Ryan: accused officers of spreading gossip

Loddon, Hampshire, while she completes a degree in politics and international re-lations at Reading University. "I wanted to respond and make my position absolutely clear - that I love Peter and there's no way I would leave him," she said. "People obviously thought they could hurt him like this but he's made of stronger stuff than that." Her husband, 52, accused

officers opposed to his reforms of spreading the rumours. Attending a police commissioners' conference in Tasmania, he said the smears would not stop him continuing to root out corruption.
This is a deliberate attempt

"We're obviously getting close

Mrs Ryan said she would rejoin her husband for good when she finished her degree in Iune. Mr Ryan said the smear campaign would not dissuade him and his family from remaining in Australia. The idea of coming here was to build a life for ourselves and become Australian citi-zens, and that is what we intend to do," he said.

A Royal Commission loves tigating the New South Wales force has uncovered so many problems that many observers believe Mr Ryan has an

impossible task. On his arrival from Eng-land, where he had been Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary, he told fellow officers to get out if they resented his changes. Two of the state's highest-ranking officers were sacked soon after and several more were dismissed or demoted. Mr Ryan, a Lancastrian, has also fallen foul of an "anti-Pom"

campaign.

Earlier last year he applied to become Chief Constable of Lancashire, where he spent the first 20 years of his career, but he was overlooked in favour of Pauline Clare, the



Adrienne Ryan, who wrote to a Sydney paper denying claims of a marital split

Britain invents new time machine | Scientists protest at

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AN ATOMIC clock a thousand times more accurate than the best now available is being developed by British scientists. The clock, which could become the standard for timekeeping in the 21st century, is based on the properties of a rare-earth metal called ytterbium when pulsed with laser light.

Dr Mat Roberts, of the Government's National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, west London, said the clock would improve satellite navigation systems and scientific measurements and make radio telescopes more accurate.

Existing atomic clocks, which are the standard for international timekeeping. are based on the element caesium. Scientists found that if a caesium atom were bathed in microwaves, its electrons would leap to higher energy levels, emitting light as they degraded. By precisely tuning the frequency of the microwaves, a maximum number of electrons are flipped up to higher energy levels. This frequency, accurate to within half of a thousand millionth of a second

per day, defines the modern second. The researchers at Teddington, whose findings are published today in the Institute of Physics's magazine Opto and Laser Europe, have taken the technique a big step forward by using ytterbium. The team first riceded to freeze an atom of the element, which was done by holding one in a force field called an ion trap. An ultraviolet laser was shone on the charged atom, which cooled it to just above absolute zero. Another laser was shone at the atom which, if precisely tuned, would cause an electron to flip up to a higher energy state.

The frequency of the laser, oscillating 600 million million times a second, needs to be tuned with absolute precision to achieve this phenomenon. Otherwise the electron will stay put. The team believes the precision required will define a new standard of time.

patents on nature

PLANS by the European Commission to allow patents on a wide range of living ob-jects have been attacked by British scientists as threatening the basis of scientific research (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Professor Jacqueline Mc-Glade, of Warwick University. told the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle that the new directive from Brussels would make it possible to "patent nature wholesale". "We have

perfectly good patent regula-tions in Europe. I want this new directive blocked."

A group of leading British scientists has written a strong letter to Nature. It is understood to say that instead of helping biotechnology to make a responsible contribution to medicine and agriculture, "the directive threatens the foundations of scientific research - free access to material and freedom to pursue promising lines of inquiry".

Why one woman's drink may be her child's poison

plumbism, has always been of more interest to the doctor than the detective. The changes that lead poisoning induces in an adult are so slow that no wicked heir who wanted to lay his hands on the family riches would be likely to make it his preferred poi-

The symptoms develop in-sidiously, although in time the patient will develop irreversible kidney damage. The first signs are headaches, vague abdominal pains associated with anorexia and nausea. and, most obviously, person-

ality changes. In children the onset of lead poisoning may be much more dramatic, with evidence of acute encephalopathy (headaches, convulsions and delirium). Whether it comes on slowly or rapidly, it can cause lasting intellectual impair-

Low-grade lead poisoning is a danger to children if they are able to lick or chew woodwork decorated with old paints; if their water supply comes



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

through lead rather than cop-per pipes; and if, before un-leaded petrol became readily available, they lived too close to a main road. Playing on soil contaminated by lead is another source of poisoning.

The Archives of Disease in Childhood has recently published an analysis of congenitai neurological abnormal-ities in children born in Lancashire. The researchers lead levels in the water and the likelihood that mothers would have babies with neural tube defects, whether spina bifida, hydrocephalus or an absence parts of the brain.

Where there is excess lead, the mother may suffer from having too little zinc, which is

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needed by the body if it is to absorb folic acid. A woman who is deprived of folic acid when pregnant is likely to have a child who is not only more prone to abnormalities of the brain and spinal cord but, recent research suggests, hare lip and cleft palate as

The research found a link between wealth and levels of lead in water. The more deprived a mother's background, the more likely it is that the level of lead in the water supply will be high, and the higher the incidence of babies who suffer neurological abnormalities.

The obvious immediate action is to persuade all women. rich and poor, to take addi-tional folic acid before they think of becoming pregnant. The research also teaches doctors that it is unwise to make assumptions without first inquiring into the reasons why these have become accepted truths.

It has long been assumed that babies born to women who come from disadvantaged backgrounds are smaller and have a higher incidence of congenital malformation. This has always been attributed to nature, but the research involving the Lancashire women shows that it was a consequence of nurture and that the their water supply

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contirm

Labour not crying over Lloyd Webber threat to emigrate

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL Labour MPs last night rapturously applauded suggestions that Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber will leave Britain if Tony Blair wins the general election. They claim the threat increases Labour's

hopes of victory.

The multimillionaire composer, reported to be considering emigrating rather than live in a Labour-run Britain, was given a rousing, if premature, send-off in the Com-mons, in which his work was described as "pretty forgetta-ble, chocolate-box stuff". A small band of Labour MPs tabled a motion claiming that Sir Andrew's reported intention provided an extra incentive to vote Labour and that they "look forward to Sir

Andrew keeping his promise".
Tony Banks, the leader of
the left-wing group, said that Sir Andrew's threat was "arrogant in the extreme" and he would like to see the back of him "because that's the best

Source: The Times 1000' 95

Deputy Prime Minister, seized on Sir Andrew's threat to suggest that there might be a repetition of the "brain drain" which led wealthy Britons to emigrate during the last Labour Government.

Sir Andrew, who is estimated to be worth ESSO million and who was given a peerage in the New Year's Honours List, was reported last week as saying: "What on earth happens if Labour gets in with a huge majority and a whole lot of loonies get in at the same

Mr Heseitine said that Sir Andrew was right to be fearful of a Labour government, it's a classic example of someone who's done extraordinarily well. He's a man who has brought huge revenues and prestige to this country, and who is seriously thinking of leaving if Labour were to be elected. Of course there would

be many more like him." Mr Banks admitted he was not the biggest fan of Sir

Andrew's work. "Given his output, there are obviously going to be one or two pieces that he has composed that are fairly easy on the ear. But it's pretty forgettable, chocolatebox stuff. It's very commercial and has proved to be by the vast amount of money he has made. Nobody is going to cry

"If these people who have done very well in this country think we are going to be concerned if they leave, that is

Mr Banks's remarks sit uneasily with his role, declared in a Commons register, as an adviser to the Musicians' Union and the Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union, many of whose members have thrived on the success of Sir Andrew's

A spokesman for Sir Andrew yesterday denied that he had any plans to leave the



Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey, who will star in Beauty and the Beast

Disney aims to usurp kings of the West End

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

cal to be staged in the West End. it announced yesterday. In a challenge to the kings of the British musical, Sir Caroeron Mackintosh and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the company announced a £10 million production of Beauty and the Beast, and many in Britain and the Continent.

The budget is about three times greater than Sir. Cameron's Oliver! and Sunset Boulevard from Sir Andrew, who was ennobled in the New Year's Honours List. "I expect they'll be worried," Skip Malone, the vice-president of Disney Theatricals, said.

Disney's British stage de-but, inspired by the success of its animated film, will be followed in October by a stage version of The Lion King. Both productions feature lyr-

ics by Sir Tim Rice. The American company is planning to establish perma-nent offices in London. If the

THE Disney Corporation is to produce the costliest musiwhen it recouped a similar investment in just over a year. Disney will look at touring the show throughout Britain and the Continent

The West End debut was delayed while the company sought a big enough venue. Work is now under way at the Dominion Theatre, enlarging the backstage area to take the production. At least £5 million will be spent on the set and

Mr Maione said that after talking to British producers, Disney Theatricals chose instead to go into partnership with a German company, Stella Musical Productions. That company has staged musicals on the Continent, particularly its home country. which Mr Malone described as second in importance to only the West End market.

Mr Malone said that Disney would devote its energies to "family shows, not chil-dren's shows". He believed that the company's founder, Walt Disney, would have approved of the two-way relationship between the screen and stage. "He was all about quality and sometimes went against the trends." Initially. the company will concentrate on musicals, but straight plays may follow.

Nick Allott, executive pro-ducer of Cameron Mackin-tosh Ltd, said he was pleased at Disney's announcement.
"We welcome any new competition. The more competition there is, the healthier it is. In our experience, one hit begets another."
While some in the theatre

world lament the musical's domination of Broadway and the West End, audiences continue to show a huge appetite for the genre. With producers struggling to make ends meet with conventional drama, Sir Cameron and Sir Andrew's productions contin-ue to make millions. Sir Cameron has Les Misérables, Miss Saigon, Oliver! and Martin Guerre among more than 300 productions staged around the world over some -25 years Sir Andrew's London production with Sir Cameron of Cats last year West End musical Sir Andrew has broken records by having three musicals running in New York and three in London.

Beauty and the opens in London on May 13. after previews from April 29. It will feature Alasdair Harvey as the Beast and Julie-Alanah Brighten as Belle.



Sir Tim: lyrics wasted

Musicals depress me, says Sir Tim

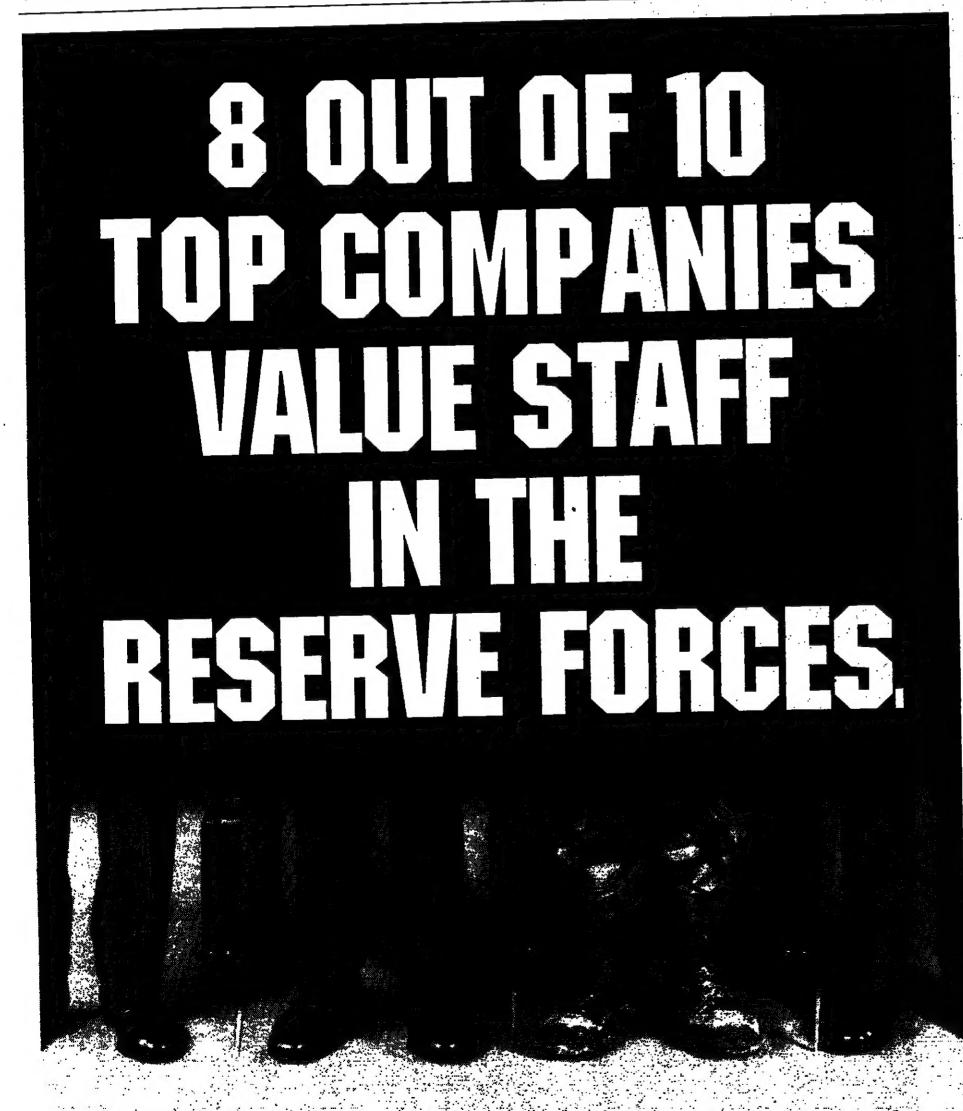
SIR TIM RICE said yesterday he was "fed up" with musicals and much preferred to see a

straight play. The lyricist for Evita, who is involved in the Disney stage version of Beauty and the Beast, expressed despair that too many musicals were playa clue about what's going on".
Lyrics were lost on coachloads
of "people who speak only
Japanese", he said, adding: "I am not wild about musicals as a genre. I would rather see a straight play nine times out of ten. I am fed up with the preaching-type musical. Some of them you come out wanting to shoot yourself, or the guy who wrote it. Not naming names, but some of them are really downbeat."



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THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE FORCES. BRITAIN'S BEST KNOWN BUSI

Tories urge Major to confirm May 1 as election date

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TORY MPs and ministers and 15 is the natural spring son (Glasgow Govan), was urged John Major yesterday to end speculation over the election date by making clear that it will be May I,

They accept that he cannot formally make the announcement for several weeks. If he did he would appear to take the Ulster Unionists for granted as well as trigger election broadcasting rules that would automatically give the opposi-

tion parties equal air time. But, buoyed up by their success on Monday in defeating Labour's attempt to force an early election, the Tories want the Prime Minister to indicate that he is intent on going to the country in May. They believe that they will benefit from a long campaign starting two or three weeks before the dissolution of

Mr Major's speech to a local government rally on Saturday is seen as an early opportunity for him to tell the party faithful that he is intent on May i. The Conservative Central

Council meeting on March 14 to make the vote, Ian David-

board for a May election; by then it will be too late to call a contest for April 10, the only other likely date.

Senior ministers are arguing that a May election would give the longest possible time for the memory of the expected defeat next week in the Wirral by-election to fade. Labour leaders have again

threatened to call a confidence vote after the Wirral result. but they will not carry out their threat unless the Ulster. Unionists assure them that they will help to bring down the Government. Senior Tories calculate that the Unionists are unlikely to do so immediately after the by-elec-tion, if at all. The Conservatives were

ter, so comfortably that they would have won even if the Unionists had voted against One Labour MP who failed

voicing satisfaction that they

had seen off the attempt on

Monday to censure Douglas

Hogg, the Agriculture Minis-

given a stern rebuke by Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, yesterday. He had apparently attended a meeting of the Scottish Grand Committee in Montrose and tried unsuccessfully to travel to London in time for the vote.

But Tony Blair insisted that Labour's tactics had been vindicated, "What we have done is expose to the public the fact that beef will have cost them the equivalent of 2p on the standard rate of income tax." Brian Mawhinney, the Tory

party chairman, portrayed the vote and Mr Blair's reaction to it as a symbol of his unfitness to govern. Tory MPs revelled in the Labour leader's decision not to return to the Commons chamber to hear the outcome of the vote. Dr Mawhinney, who was unveiling the latest Tory pre-

election poster, featuring a claim that a Blair government would cost families an extra £2,300 a year in tax, said: "If you had seen Mr Blair's face

as he walked out of the



Please sh: Michael Howard yesterday during a campaign visit to Higher Bebington School in Wirral South

chamber last night, looking humiliated, not even having the courage to stay for the announcement of the vote, you wouldn't have said, There's a

man who's leading'." Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said at the

was supposed to be leading same launch that Labour had "made fools of themselves". the troops." Michael Howard, the Home

He said of Mr Blair: "The moment there's a whiff of Secretary, who was campaigndanger he disappears. I was ing in Wirral South yesterday, amazed that Tony Blair left dropped another May 1 hint. John Prescott out to dry and There is a great deal of life left disappeared from sight. He in this Government and we

have a great deal still to do," he said.

Referring to the vote, he said: "It shows how utterly incompetent Labour are. They didn't consult the other parties and they are left with a great

Prescott angered by spin doctors

JOHN PRESCOTT joined a Shadow Cabinet row over the privatisation of the Tote yesterday with an attack on

Labour's spin-doctors. The deputy leader said that when party aides had floated an idea it did not mean it was Labour policy. "I wish somebody could stop them," he told BBC Radio 4's Today

programme. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary were also angry that a story in the Sunday Telegraph that Labour was planning to sell off the Tote was confirmed by a senior adviser to Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor.

The aide briefed reporters on Sunday and gave further details about how much the sale would bring in, saying that £400 million to £500 million could be raised to spend on health and education

Aides from Tony Blair's office did not deny the story. but made clear that it was only an option, not policy. It took another 24 hours, after an angry reaction from the racing community, before Robin Cook, a racing enthusiast, killed the story, saying: "There will be no proposal by Labour to sell the Tote."

The debacle will heighten the tension between Mr Cook and Mr Brown. Relations between them have never been good and the Shadow Foreign Secretary was clearly irritated that he had not been consulted about something on which he was such an expert.

Although the Mr Brown's aide was being blamed yesterday, it was clear that the Shadow Chancellor knew about the story on Sunday and did nothing to stop it.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30em, backbench debates, From 2.30pm, trade

Unwieldy government needs cutting down to size

many ministers and the House of Commons too many MPs. This view is gaining support and not just from senior MPs after they have amounced their intention to retire. So I was cheered when I read in the Express on Sunday that John Major was considering a radical shake-up so that "more than 150 MPs and 30 ministers could be axed".

Unfortunately, the Tories are not likely to propose anything as radical in their manifesto. Admittedly, some ministers are sympathetic to these ideas. Roger Freeman has been the only Cabinet minister publicly to back a slimmer House, though Lord Cranbonne has dropped a few hints that perhaps

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more of their money is working for them.

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flaws in its own House before proposing reconstruction of the Lords. Leading political academics such as Professor Philip Norton of Hull have also discussed reducing the size of the Commons. But the Tory leadership seems unwilling to challenge its own MPs so dramatically at this stage.
What ministers have discussed,

at their strategy meeting at Chequers three weeks ago, is a restruc-turing of Whitehall to reduce the number of departments, and possibly also ministers. At present, there are 84 ministers and whips in the Commons, compared with 33 a century ago when Whitehall ruled an Empire covering a third of the earth. The disappearance of the

ENPOLITICS Empire has, of course, been offset

by a vast extension of the State's But since 1979 central govern-

ment has sought to pull back via privatisation, contracting out a big reduction in the number of civil servants and the Next Steps executive agencies running large areas of administration. Some departments have disappeared - Energy into Trade and Industry, and Employment into Education - though a new one, National Heritage, has, less successfully, been created. But there has been no reduction in the overall number of ministers. Trade

and Industry still has seven despite the privatisation of virtually all the old nationalised industries, while the Treasury has five. Having coped with painful cuts in Civil Service numbers, most permanent secretaries I know believe that ministerial teams should also be stimmed down. One volunteered which ministers could go in his department.

So any reshuffle of departmental responsibilities - perhaps involving agriculture, transport and broadcasting - will only be convincing if it is accompanied by a reduction in the number of ministers. The present total has more to do with satisfying the ambitions of career politicians and with the patronage of the whips than with

the needs of government. But a slimmer executive should also be accompanied by a slimmer legislature. The Commons has risen from 625 in the 1950s to 659 after the election following various boundary reviews. This is unwieldy. The only larger elected chamber is the German Bundestag following unification, though many other countries have a federal structure with regional assemblies. If devolution is implemented here, there would be an ever stronger case not just for ending the over-representation of Scotland, but also for reducing the size of the Commons to, say, 450 to 500. Of course, many MPs will be worried about losing their seats but a change could be phased in and

accompany the regular boundary

reviews when many members anyway retire. Labour has proposals for making the Commons more effective, but has not proposed any reduction in the number of ministers or MPs. Indeed, its current shadow team is 100 strong and Tony Blair will not

want to disappoint all those eager shadows who have been waiting so long for office. The Liberal Democrats have been prepared to address these issues and they are the only national party to advocate fewer ministers and fewer MPs, but they have had no ministers since the wartime coalition and no more than a couple of dozen MPs for 60

PETER RIDDELL

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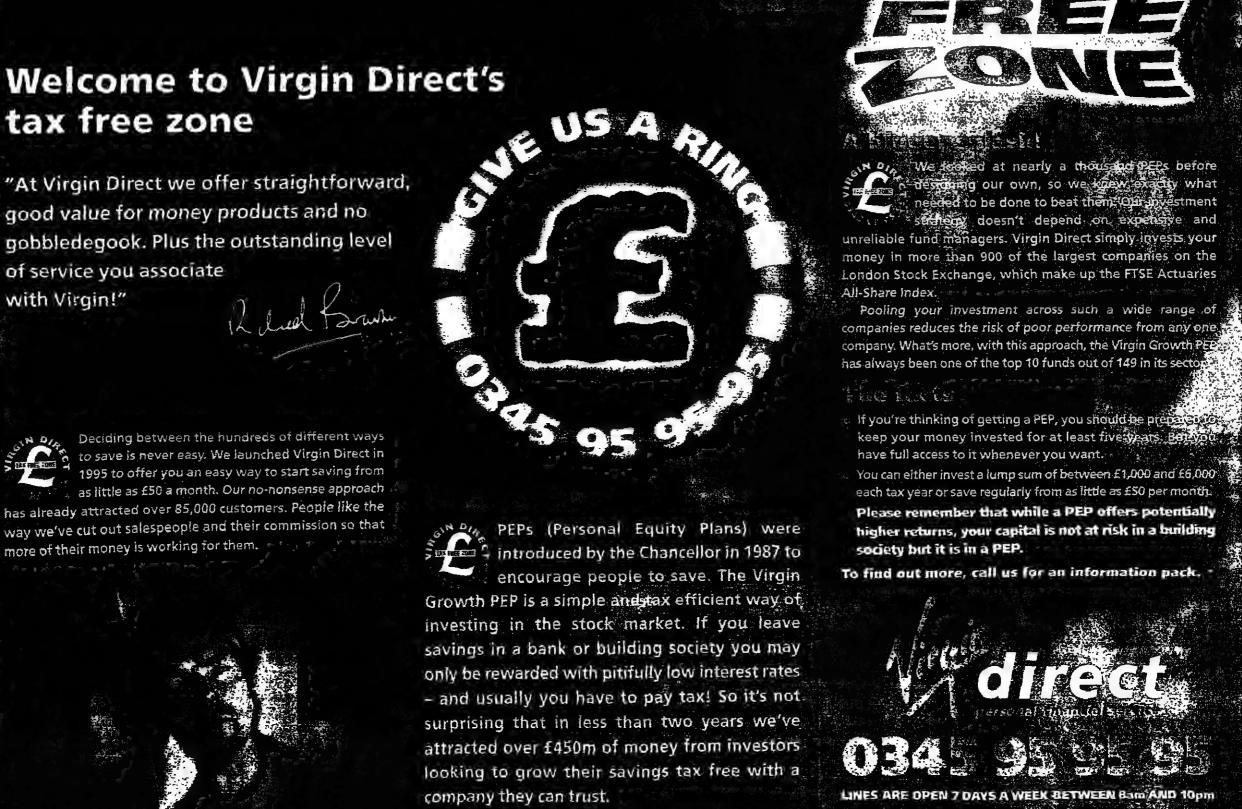












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Netanyahu: dismissed

Netanyahu questioned by police on scandal

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JUIUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister was last night questioned formally by police for the first time in their investigations into an alleged political corruntion scandal surrounding the short-lived appointment of an Attorney-General. Binyamin Netanyahu was

questioned in his Jerusalem office. The investigation stems from a report by Israel Television that Arych Deri. leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party and member of the ruling coalition, had agreed to support the pullout of Israeli troops from Hebron in return for the appointment of Roni Bar-On as Attorney-General and if a plen bargain was arranged in Mr Deri's own fraud and bribery case that is before the courts. The charges have so

far been unsupported. Mr Netanyahu has dismissed them as "nonsense" and has accused the television station of left-wing bias. Mr Bar-On was an obscure lawyer and a former football club chairman before his appointment. He resigned after two days in the post as legal and political leaders charged that he was unsultable for the job.

☐ Villages shelled: Israeli and allied militia forces shelled three south Lebanou villages, killing a woman and wounding two other people, shelling was in breach of a US-brokered ceasefire deal last April that bars the Hexbolloh and Israeli and by trading session a week. A allied militia from targeting civilian areas. (Reuter)

Russia seeks to strengthen Middle East peace role

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, had talks yesterday in the Kremlin with President Yeltsin at the start of a two-day visit seen as part of an effort to revive Russia's flagging role in the Middle

East peace process,
A beaming Mr Yeltsin,
looking fit and energetic despite reports of continuing ill health, was shown on television striding to meet the Palestinian leader. The two men embraced, before Mr Arafat reached up to plant three kisses on his host's

During the meeting, which Mr Arafat later described as very warm and friendly", Mr ination that "Russia will continue intensive efforts to promote the settlement of differences and the establishment of peace and good neighbourly relations in the

Mr Arafat's visit is expected to be followed next month by

Palestinian bourse opens

Jerusalem: The Palestinians took another important step towards an independent state yesterday with the opening of the first stock exchange in the self-rule areas created by the 1993 peace treaty with Israel (Christopher Walker writes).

The stock market in Nablus. the largest West Bank city, joined other symbols of statehood already in place, includ-ing a flag, an elected legislature, a national airline and

passports. Designed to attract Palestinian finance from the diaspora, the fully automated bourse. built at a cost of \$2 million (£1,200,000), began business with 23 companies listed and a further 20 due to follow soon. Initially it will hold one market index — the Jerusalem Index — will be added next.

a trip to Moscow by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. The Interfax news agency

said that Mr Arafat, who later met Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, and Gennadi Seleznyov, the Chairman of the State Duma, had emphasised that Russia had a most important role to play in assuring stability and security in the Middle East.

"Mr Arafat's visit should be viewed in the context of a further deepening of Russian-Palestinian co-operation aimed at advancing the peace process," a Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying. Russia is a co-sponsor of the

Middle East peace process, along with the United States, but Moscow's influence in the region has plummeted since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The appointment of Mr Primakov. an Arab specialist, to replace Andrei Kozyrev at the Foreign Ministry last year, was widely regarded as a signal of Rus sia's determination to take a more assertive role in Middle Last affairs.

Mr Primakov, who had earlier worked as chief of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, had a reputation as a friend of some of the more radical leaders of the Arab world, including Saddam Husseln, the Iraqi President

During his talks with Mr Arafat, which are due to continue today, Mr Primakov expressed Russia's support for the Palestinian leadership's policy of negotiation with Israel.

☐ Journalist punished: The Kremlin yesterday took away the accreditation of a journal-ist who reported that Mr Yeltsin's wife, Naina, had asked him to step down for health reasons. Sergei Yastrzhembsky, a Kremlin spokesman, said the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda, change its Kremlin correspondent (AFP)



Despite continuing reports of ill health, President Yeltsin was on hand to greet Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian

Japan to seek extradition of five Red Army guerrillas from Beirut

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

JAPAN plans to request the extradition of five Red Army guerrillas arrested in Lebanon, among them a key figure in the 1972 Lod airport massacre that left 24 people dead. The five and three supporters, all Japanese, were captured by Lebanese authorities in raids on hideouts in the Bekaa Valley, the Red Army's base since the early 1970s.

Japan's National Police Agency has sent a team to Lebanon to confirm the identities of the group, believed to include five terrorists on the international wanted list. Lebanese officials say one is Kozo Okamoto, 49, sought for the machinegun and grenade attack at Tei Aviv's Lod Airport. Also in custody are Kazuo Tohira, 44, the Red Army's master which published the story on passport forger, who was arrested in Monday, had been asked to Stockholm in early 1975, and extradited to Japan. He was later released by Japan in a deal to free hostages when the US

Consulate in Kuala Lumpur was selzed in August 1975.

The Red Army achieved notoriety for 20 terrorist attacks including the September 1977 hijacking of a Japan Airlines plane in Dhaka. Still at large are Fusako Shigenobo, who founded the group in Lebanon in 1971 with the support of Palestinian factions and seven others on the international wanted list.

According to Japanese police, the group counts no more than 40 active members who find it increasingly difficult to operate. Its last confirmed terrorist incident was the 1988 bombing of an American military base in Naples. The end of the Cold War, the collapse of communist regimes, and the momentum of the Middle East peace process has deprived the guernilas of operational bases and safe havens. By contrast vens. By contrast

Hezbollah organisation, which has its stronghold in the Bekaa Valley, remain valuable to Damascus and Tehran.

For the Governments of Lebanon and Syria - without whose consent the new arrests could not have been made - the Red Army's Beksa presence has become an embarrassment. Four years ago the guerrillas began acouring Asia and Latin America for new hideouts. Three senior members have been caught in Romania, Peru. Nepal in the past two years.

The arrests will have delighted the

Belrut Government, which is working hard to shed Lebanon's image as terrorist haven, seeking to boost its tourism industry and win international investment for an ambitious postwar reconstruction programme. They could of Syria, which has 40,000 troops to

" wprieve India to deport Sobhraj

Delhi: The Indian Government decided yesterday to drop all pending cases against the famed criminal Charles Sobhrai and pressed for his speedy deportation to France. A prosecutor said his presence in India was prejudicial

to the state. Two cases pending against Sobhraj con-cern a lapsed Thai extradition request and the other stems from a 1986 jailbreak that earned him fame. (Reuter) Algeria toll rises Algiers: About 30 men shot,

hacked or burnt to death 33 villagers in Blida, south of the

capital, as battles intensified

between the army and Mus-

lim militants. Nearby a bomb

killed a railway engineer. (AP) President ill

Colombo: President Ban-daranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka is in hospital with a stomach ailment, but it is not thought to be serious, officials said. She will be 81 in April (AP) Union

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Erotic initiative

Cairo: An unabridged Arabic four-volume edition of 1,001 Nights, including the erotic scenes, has been published in Egypt for the first time, based in 1819. (AFP)

Death sentence

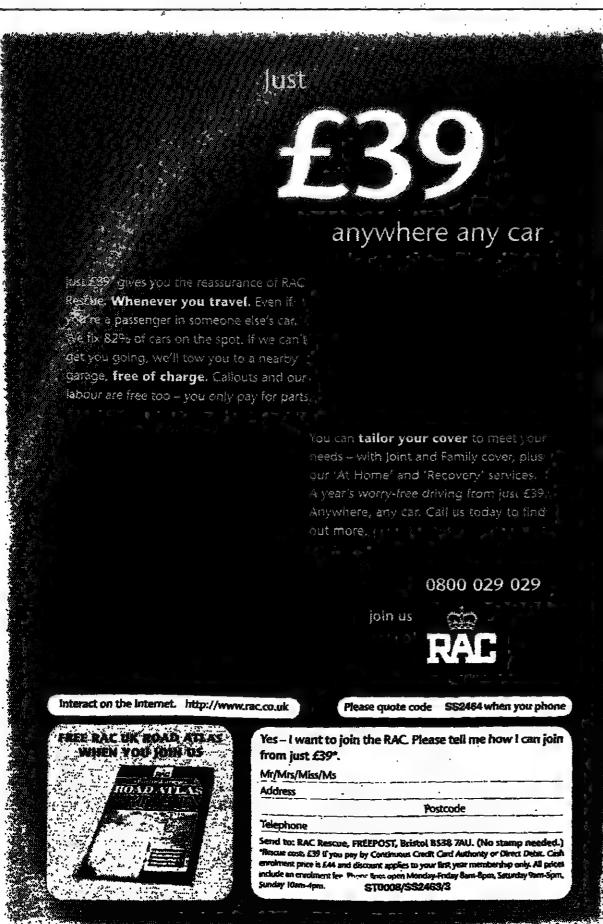
Harare: George Chikwamure and Nyenyai Mudenge were sentenced to death after killing a villager they abducted at random. A businessman paid £1.50 for his brain — seen as a hicky charm. (AFP)

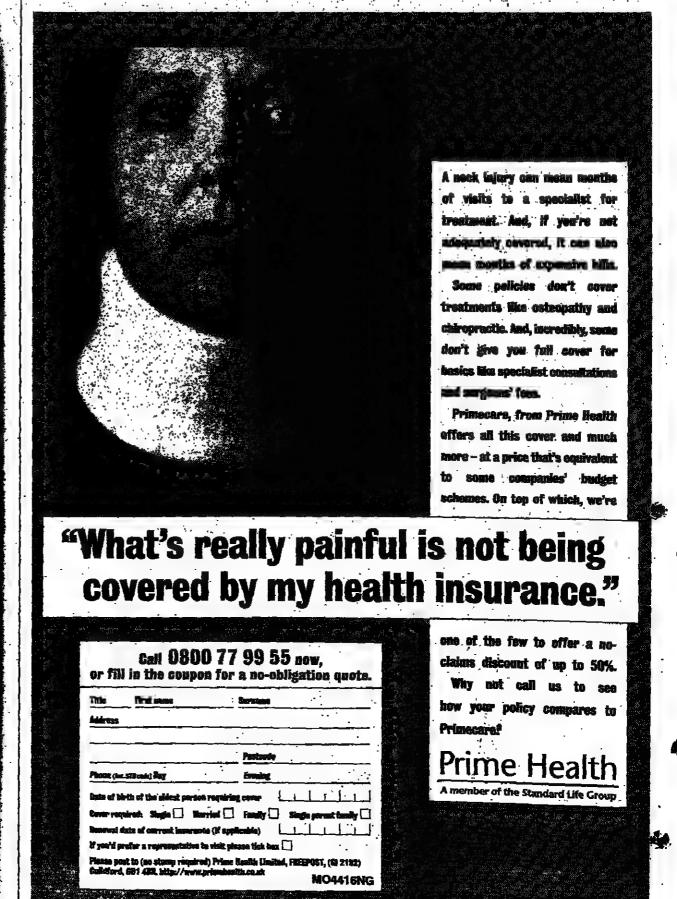
Hubble ready

Houston: Servicing and re-pairs to the Hubble space telescope have been completed and the Discovery shuttle was taking it to an orbit nine miles higher before releasing it into free flight early today. (AP)

Bean runners

Berne: Swiss authorities are closing in on a smuggling operation illegally transport-ing thousands of townes of and beans, into the country





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COMPANIES SUCCES

India lo Reprieve for Clintons as depon Whitewater scourge quits Whitewater scourge quits

KENNETH STARR once seen by the White House as a nor would he want to surrendemon sent to torment President Clinton, was yesterday dubbed "Clinton's lucky

Mr Starr's unexpected decision to step down as special prosecutor for the Whitewater affair is widely interpreted as a sign that his 24-year investigation has failed to build a strong criminal case against the President or the First Lady.

While Mr Starr said yesterday that nothing should be read into his departure, the White House was ecstatic. "There are a lot of smiles around here today," said one

During Monday's national holiday of Presidents Day, it emerged that Mr Starr had decided to leave the Whitewater investigation by August l to become dean of Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, as well as the founding dean of its new school of public policy.

He told The New York Times: "I would read nothing into this [his departure] except it is an extraordinary opportunity for me. That it came when it did is merely a happy coincidence and I had no control over the timing."

However, that explanation, coming from a man who has spent his recent professional life pouring scorn on claims of coincidence, has done nothing to dispel speculation. Many Democrats argued yesterday that he would not be stepping down if he was on the verge of

der the glory to his successor. "You don't spend 2's years and \$35 million (£22 million) and recommend you prosecute, but don't do it yourself. It doesn't make any sense," said one Administration official

Some Republicans argued, however, that he may well be preparing to hand the case over to associates. Some involved in the investigation noted that his departure would have little effect as he had not carried out the prosecution of any of the Whitewater related cases, nor would he have done so in the

The tortuous investigation began as an inquiry into the Clintons' failed Whitewater land deal in Arkansas and the suicide of Vincent Foster, the White House deputy counsel.

Starr: says timing of decision is coincidence

However, it quickly spread into a medley of intertwined inquiries: Arkansas financial dealings by the Clintons and their friends; whether anyone in the White House obstructed these investigations by with-holding evidence, the White

Unions in \$60m drive to boost membership

AMERICA'S labour unions will launch a \$60 million (£37 million) drive for new members this week to try to stem two decades of decline.

The drive, led by John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO - the union umbrella organisation with 13 million members - is a desperate attempt to regain dwindling political and inabortive American Airlines strike, halted by presidential order, was an added insult to the once-mighty labour unions. A mere 14.5 per cent of American workers are now more than a third in the 1950s when the power of the Teamsters was compared with that

dustrial clout. The weekend's

House's use of FBI files on Republicans; the dismissal of the White House travel office staff in 1993; and fundraising for Mr Clinton's election cam-

paign in Arkansas. Mr Starr's most significant Whitewater victory was the conviction in a fraud case of Jim Guy Tucker, a former Arkansas Governor and Democrat, together with the Clintons' former business partners James and Susan McDougal However, his investigation suffered a setback with the partial acquittal of two Arkansas bankers accused of conspiring to conceal large cash withdrawals by Mr Climon's 1990 campaign for the state governorship.

Republicans were also dis appointed that no charges were brought against the Clin-tons before last November's presidential elections. Some argued that he had simply restrained himself from tak-ing such a politically-charged step in the run-up to the

To many, however, that argument seemed suspect, given Mr Starr's aggression as an investigator.

It may be that another special prosecutor will be appointed and criminal charges against the Clintons may foilow. In retrospect, however, Mr Starr's failure to bring indictments before the election may seem the first sign that his investigation would end not with a bang, but a fizzle.

Leading article, page 19



The brown tree snake, whose fellows have already wiped out nine of the 11 species of birds native to Guam

New threat slithers towards America

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is facing a threat to its shores from a slithering predator capable of destroying whole populations.

The brown tree snake, Boiga irregularis, although not lethal for humans, has killed 17 species of animal in the American territory of Guam. including nine of the island's 11 native birds. And the voracious reptile, which often reaches a length of 10ft, is thought to be making steady progress towards the United States. It was recently sighted on Saipan in the

northern Marianas and could soon reach

Hawaii, Officials fear that the snake, which has a habit of hiding in ships and aircraft, could then simply slink from the Pacific to the American mainland.

The US Government is so concerned \$1.5 million (£928,000) of his proposed budget to increase border patrols and for the development of chemicals to combat

"What is at stake is the ecology of many islands in the Pacific and there is a danger for America as well," Tom Fritts, of the Interior Department, said. A native of Australia, where it is kept in check by parasites, the coffee-coloured snake spread to the Pacific islands on military lanes and cargo ships after the Second World War. In Guam, where it has no natural enemies, its population reached 30,000 a square mile before levelling off at 12,000 a square mile in some forested

In the decades since its arrival, the reptile has wiped out such beautiful species as the Mariana fruit dove, the Micronesian kingfisher and the Micronesian honevester.

Castro throws a party for Hollywood cigar-lovers

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

CUBA'S Marxist President, Fidel Castro, has invited some of Hollywood's flashiest stars to Havana for a few days of cigar smoking and inhaling the comradely airs at the Tropicana Club.

The official purpose of next week's party is to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Cohiba, the strong, slow-burn-ing cigar which Senor Castro made famous in his smoking days, although he has now given up.

invitations have gone our quietly to 100 prominent Americans, including the film actors Jack Nicholson, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Danny De-Vito. Matt Dillon and the cheroot-fancying mannequin. Linda Evangelista Leading businessmen, who may want discreetly to invest a dollar or two, were also said to be on the invitation list.

Anti-mafia

Bill pinched

by thieves

Buenos Aires: Thieves yester-

mafia law from the offices of

the Argentine Chamber of

They copied dozens of com-

puter files to disks, then erased

files from the computers, said

Santiago Rossi, an aide to Miguel Angel Toma, the chairman of the parliamenta-

ry defence committee. In addi-

tion to the draft Bill, among

the lost files was background

information on anti-Mafia leg-

The thieves, who got past a

Cheaper car

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Deputies, officials said.

The United States normally prohibits its citizens from travelling to Cubs, which it has iong regarded as a hostile nation, but it was understood that the guests for the grand Cohiba party have got around the regulations, possibly by getting a third party to pay for their flights. A Spanish tobac-co wholesaler is underwriting much of the cost of the Cuban. extravaganza.

Before it was put on the market in 1966, the Cohiba nor Castro and his cronies. When sufficiently impressed at official receptions, he would reach inside his fatigues and produce a Cohiba as a reward for visiting dignitaries. There are smoother smokes than the Cohiba, which is better suited to the palate of revolutionaries than it is to tender Western



Castro in his smoking days and Linda Evangelista, the cheroot-fancying model invited to the party

most sought-after names in humidor-polishing circles. Chris O'Hara, of New

which has been invited to the Havana party, described the harsh but easily the most desired Cuban cigar: celebrities and tycoons love it". Havanas are illegal in the United States, but contraband boxes of Cohibas, containing 25 cigars, sell for as much as \$800 (£495). There is also a

Because of the sensitivity of the Cuban question in America, there was no immediate confirmation of who among those invited had risked public opprobrium and had accepted Senor Castro's invitation.

Tickets for the beano will cost \$500 each, enough to keep a Cuban family for a good year. For American visitors, the Cuban trip will at least afford the rare joy of being allowed to smoke openly in public without incurring bleats of disapproval from anti-tobacco campaigners, ox-ygen freaks, health fascists and various other professional

John Kavulich, head of the US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, said that he believed that all those who had accepted were "going legally". Richard Sachs, a Florida stockbroker, told the Sun-Sentinel newspaper of Fort Lauderdale that to someone who smokes cigars, it is like going to the Oscars".

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islation in the United States and Italy. double lock on the door, took a fax machine and a television set to try to throw off investigagatey commences to tors, Senor Rossi said (AFP)

e Health

Cattle and deer perish as Midwest freezes

BY QUENTEN LETTS

THOUSANDS of deer and cattle have died across the northern plains of the American Midwest after a winter of

Wild whitetail have entered built-up areas in search of food and frozen pheasant have plummeted from the skies. killed by prolonged spells of sub-zero temperatures and deep snow. Minnesota and the Dakotas

have been hardest hit, with ranchers losing more than 11.000 head of cattle in North Dakota alone. South Dakota has had 25ft of snow since the start of winter.

In what has been described as the worst winter for 102 years, wind-chill has been an added hazard, with ity gusts persisting for days on end. The major interstate highways have been closed eight times and President Clinton declared North Dakota a disaster area, making it eligi-

ble for federal funds. Country-sports enthusiasts. so often depicted as cruel, have been leading humanitarian efforts to help the hard-hit deer, Farmers watched at first in irritation as the hungry

deer entered barns to eat stored hay bales. As the bonechilling winter has continued, many farmers have taken pity on the whitetail deer and have voluntarily fed them.

State authorities dropped tonnes of corn in remote areas as food for the stricken wildlife. In Minnesora, the state capitol has seen local politicians debating emergency measures for deer. Bruce Meyer, a farmer with

600 acres in Appleton, western Minnesota, said: "I don't know how many bushels of corn the deer have eaten so far. It has gotten so bad that at times I have 30 in the yard, jumping fences and getting in with the cattle to get at their feed. The deer aren't even afraid of me. I can walk to within 20ft of them. The other day, got on a snowmobile and chased them away and that worked pretty well. But they are eating a lot of food."

Evergreen trees as tall as lost have been stripped bare by the ravenous deer. LaVonne Gloege, a farmer's wife in Odessa, told the Star Tribune newspaper that she had lost 200 trees to the deer.

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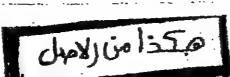
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Albright proposes joint Nato-Russia peacekeeping unit

By Michael Evans and Levia Linton

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, formed. The question of comthe US Secretary of State. proposed yesterday that Nato and Russia form a joint bri-gade for peacekeeping and crisis management missions. She outlined the proposa

during a statement to Nato's North Atlantic Council in Brussels, the first time she had decision-making body since her new appointment.

Although the idea of form-ing a Nato/Russian brigade of about 5,000 soldiers has been discussed within the alliance over the past three months, this latest idea for forging closer practical links with the Russian armed forces had not been made public,

Ms Albright's support for the concept came in a statement which underlined a personal commitment to build a new security partnership with Russia at the same time as pushing ahead with Nato's plans for enlargement.

Nato sources said the idea of forming a brigade followed directly on from the experience in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Russian troops have alongside alliance

Nato wants to ensure that after the Bosnia operation is over, the peacekeeping partnership between alliance and Russian troops is maintained. Ms Albright said: "We could begin immediately to develop a joint Nato/Russia

Nato sources said there were a number of options being considered. Although it was unlikely that there would be a standing brigade permanently on standby, units who would train together could be

mand and control would have to be resolved depending on the nature of the operation and the countries contributing

troops, they said. The Russians have already been apprised of this new idea, along with other proposals including an exchange of mili-tary officers at the main command headquarters.

Ms Albright, who will soon be meeting Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, told the North Atlantic Council yesterday that Russia had legitimate concerns about Nato enlargement "that are

She said it was envisaged that a Nato-Russia Joint Council would be formed which would "promote a regular dialogue on major security issues, reach concerted decisions where possible and seize opportunities for joint action".

She said she recognised that Russian leaders opposed the enlargement and "that this is



that the alliance should not offer membership to several Central European countries at the Nato summit in Madrid in July. "Our goal is an undivided Europe," she said. "We must ensure that every Euro-

pean democracy, whether it joins Nato sooner, later or not at all, has a role. This includes She said a "critical task" in the weeks ahead was to build a partnership with Russia from which both Moscow and

Europe would clearly benefit. Later, at a press conference, Ms Albright said that Russia should be a "full participant" of Nato, but without a veto. "Russia will have a voice but Russia will not have a veto," she said.

She said a joint military brigade was still only a "con-cept", but added: "I would hope that it would have a real

She said that membership negotiations should be cometed by the end of the year so that the first new members could join the alliance by 1999. which is Nato's fiftieth anniversary

She refused to comment on the cost of enlarging Nato. President Clinton is due to make an an announcement about the estimated cost in a report to the US Congress in a

Nato sources said that Ms Albright's first visit to the Brussels headquarters since becoming Secretary of State had confirmed her to be a resolute and determined personality, which was welcomed by all the member states.

Simon Jenkins, page 18



Veteran stars Lauren Bacall and Alain Delon fail to shine for Berlin Film Festival critics who panned their new film, directed by a novice

Tears of mirth for philosopher's 'weepie'

FRANCE'S highest-profile intellectual was trying to remain philosophical yesterday after his debut as a feature film director received one of the most savage

drubbings in recent cinema history. Hundreds in the audience walked out before the end of the world premiere of Bernard-Henri Lévy's Le Jour et La Nuit at the Berlin Film Festival on Monday. Many who remained burst into spoutaneous applause and hoots of mirth at the moment when the film's hero dies by blowing himself up in a hot-tir balloon. M Lévy had promised the audience it would leave in tears, but he meant of

Boasting an all-star cast including Alain Delon, Lauren Bacall and Arielle wife, the film was financed with French

and European public funds, shot in Mexico and billed - most energetically by M Levy himself - as a breakthrough in French cinema. Instead it has been panned as vapid, pretentious and semipornographic. One critic, Gérard Lefort, said it had the "subtlety of a buildozer".

M Delon, in an understatement that sparked fresh derision, told a packed news conference. "I get the impression some of you did not like the film." Miss Bacall refused to say if it ranked among her professional highlights. "That's an

interesting question," she hedged.

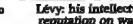
M Levy insisted that the attacks "tell us more about the state of mind of the people writing them than about the quality of the film". But they also say much about the state of the French film industry, and M Levy's waning reputation as France's premier intellectual. As a novelist, documentary-maker, play-wright, pundit and moral arbiter, BHL, as he is usually known, has garnered greater publicity and more enemies than any other modern French philosophe, Some detractors have pointed out that only in the dique-ridden French art

world would an untried film-maker have been given the backing to write, cast and direct a movie principally on the basis of his name and high-level contacts.

Abuse directed at BHL has reached such a level that his allies have felt moved

to defend him. The writer Françoise Giroud, who co-wrote a book about love with M Lévy, described the "cabal" against him as "grotesque".

Italy attacks West's lack of coherent





Road race craze brings terror to autobahn

By ROGER BOYES

A NEW craze for high-speed races on the autobahn network is bringing chaos to German motorways and twice this week has resulted in

and the drivers are often well-

heeled tecnagers with their own BMWs and Toyotas. In the early hours of Monday morning, 11 youths with fresh-ly polished Volkswagen Golfs, Opeis, Hondas, and BMWs met in a layby near Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr, the industrial heartland of Germany.

dezvous, they were speeding three abreast along a double lane on the A42; they had covered nine miles when the race ended in a disastrous

Yesterday, almost 48 hours clearing away the debris Within minutes of their ren- which was spread over a 100-

yard area. The first driver had smashed into the back of a 27year-old woman's Mercedes; both were badly injured. The racers were driving almost bumper to bumper and were unable to brake in time. All the

policy on Mediterranean security lack of a "coherent Western security policy" in the increasingly troubled and volatile eastern Mediterranean and

complained that it was having

to shoulder much of the bur-

den in shoring up stability.

Piero Fassino, the Deputy
Foreign Minister, said there
was no European policy to
speak of in the region, where countries from Albania and Bulgaria to Algeria and Turkey were in farment.

There are piecemeal poli-cies and initiatives on Cyprus or Turkey, Albania or Bulgar-ia," Signor Fassino said. "But

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN vision. We need a European policy, first, and then we need clear agreement between Europe and the United States. in the absence of a consensus, Italy will continue to take the

pursue a policy on our own."
Signor Passino, 47, regarded as one of the sharpest brains in Italian diplomacy, has travelled extensively in the region since the Centre-Left came to power in Italy nearly a year ago. He is also a rising

lead. But we do not want to

star in Italian politics. His remarks come at a time of tension between France and

future of the Nato Mediterramean command in Naples. Signor Fassino said Italy was working closely with the United States over Albania, where italy had a "special historical role" because of its colonisa-

tion and subsequent military

occupation of the country undêr Mussolmi. Albania is 40 miles across the Adriatic from Italy and reminders of the country's colonial rule have survived the Communist decades of isolation: every town has an Italisnate town hall or library - ings lining the Boulevard of the Martyrs in Tirana date from the Fascist era. Tallian is more commonly

spoken there than English or German and the Italian press still refers to Shkodra as "Scutari" and Viore as "Valona". Southern Italian entrepreneurs dominate the Al-

banian economy: it was announced yesterday that bankers from Aversa, near Naples, were stepping in to prop up Vefa Holdings, the main company involved in the failed pyramid savings

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Nazi gold hunters close in on Sweden's Wallenberg dynasty

HUNTERS of Nazi gold and Sweden's wartime secrets are closing in on the Wallenberg dynasty. the family that holds sway over much of the country's economy.

Their target is the late Jacob Wallenberg, the banker who negotiated Sweden's trading relationship with Nazi Germany: the family is determined that investigators do not project him as an amoral partner of the Hider regime.

The controversy, which is focusing on who should gain access to the Wallenberg family archives for the wartime years, is particularly piquant because of the hero status of Jacob's cousin, Raoul. It was Raoul Wallenberg who helped to save about 100,000 Hungarian Jews, partly by bribing and bluffing German officals. After the war he was arrested by the Russians and

disappeared in the gulag. Jacob, uncle of Peter Wallenberg. who heads the dynasty now, was an altogether different character. He had active contacts with the German resistance, above all with Carl Goerdeler who was hanged on Hitler's orders, but he was also a frequent and welcome guest of the Berlin regime. Jacob Wallenberg played golf near the Wannsee (where the extermination of the Jews was planned) and ate lobster in the city's best restaurant. His brother, Marcus, paid visits to Hermann Goering, whose first wife was a Swedish countess. While Marcus determined Sweden's trading relationship with the Allies,

Roger Boyes reports from Stockholm on the developing struggle to gain access to the wartime archives of a secretive and powerful family that still controls much of the Swedish economy

Jacob concentrated on the Germans. Swedish ore and ball bearings were sold to the Germans rocket components for the V2 were stamped "Made in Sweden" - in return for coal, fertilisers and oil.

The halance was made up by payments of gold from the Third Reich. The gold was originally said to be from prewar German reserves, but long after that was shown to be nonsense the gold

shipments continued. A document from the Swedish Central Bank, dated August 24. 1944, records Jacob Wallenberg urging Swedish bankers to continue gold transactions with the Nazis.

The friendship between Ivar Rooth, the Swedish Central Bank chief, and Per Jacobsson, the Swedish-born chief economist of the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements, ensured that the

the gold was plundered from the hanks of occupied countries and perhaps had more sinister origins. At the Nuremberg trials, Emil Puhl, deputy head of Hitler's Central Bank, agreed that some gold robbed from Jewish concentration camp victims had been melted into bars and used in trade.

All these facts have emerged over the past few weeks. For Swedes, the shock is equivalent to that felt by the Swiss. The Wallenbergs play a prominent role in the country. Their empire includes the car maker Saab, the ball bearings company SKF and the electrical engineering firm ABB.

Trading with Germany was forced on Sweden because of its encirclement by Germany. Yet Swedes are wondering whether they did not pay too high a moral price for their passive role.

The Swedish Government is determined not to fall into the same public relations trap as the Swiss. One of the first moves was to set up a working group to study archives. including those of the Wallenbergs. But the family insists that only a government commission should do the job. Now the argument is about who should sit on such a

Raoul plea: Guy von Dardel, half-brother of Raoui Wallenberg. has called on the Swedish Government to open its files in an attempt to clarify his fate. Some say he is



Raoul Wallenberg: saved Jews from deportation

Russian bishops begin final steps to canonise last Tsar

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

TALKS began yesterday on making Nicholas II, the last Tsar, a saint in what would be a dramatic reversal of 70 years of Soviet ideology, which branded him a bloody tyrant.

Nearly 80 years after the Tsar was murdered with his family by the Bolsheviks in July 1918, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church has opened deliberations on the issue. The Synod will put its final recommendation before the Assembly of Bishops, which is about to hold its twoyearly convocation. If, as exnected, the Synod decides in favour, the Tsar, his wife, Alexandra, and their five children could be saints by the end of the year.

The first steps towards the canonisation of the Russian Royal Family were taken in October when the Synod ordered a nationwide survey of church opinion after a twoyear study. The move is certain to highlight the political divisions in a country where a large proportion of the population still hankers after its Communist past. Tsar Nicholas abdicated in

March 1917. After unsuccessful attempts to negotiate sanctuary with his cousin, King George V, the Russian Royal Family was moved to the Urals, eventually arriving at the city of Yekaterinburg where they were held in the house of a local merchant. On July 17 they were shot and bayoneted to death with three servants and the family

doctor. Supporters of canonisation argue that Russia would have been spared millions of deaths under the Communists if the Tsar's rule had continued and that, as a symbol of Russia, the Tsar's canonisation would be an act of faith for the entire

Last month the regional governor in Yekaterinburg ordered the construction of a memorial church to mark the



Tsar Nicholas II: killed with his family in 1918

murder spot. That order, by Eduard Rossel, was in response to long-standing calls from the Orthodox Church for a church on the site of the loatyev house, where the Royal Family spent their last weeks. The house was demoiished in 1977 on the orders of Boris Yeltsin, then regional

Communist chief. In his memoirs President Yeltsin said he was acting on secret orders from the Polithuro in Moscow to bulldoze the building, because of fears that it could become a destination for monarchist pilgrims. He said he had no choice but to carry out "this senseless

The remains of the Royal

Family were taken to nearby woods and buried. They lay undiscovered until the late 1980s and only in the last two years have their identities been confirmed through DNA testing. Now a bitter argument is being waged between the authorities in Yekaterinburg and in St Petersburg where previous Romanovs are - over where they should finally be laid to rest. Mr Rossel's move to establish a church on the Ipatyev house site, which is now marked only by a crude wooden framework of a church, would add



Members of the Orthodox Bishops' Synod gather in Moscow yesterday for their meeting, at which the canonisation proposal was due to be examined

strength to his city's claim, although few doubt that St Petersburg will eventually

prevaii. Over the past few months Russian interest in the monarchy has soared, while the debate over the possible restitution of a Tsar is frequently aired in the newspapers and on television. The idea has won strong support from the Orthodox Church, which would regard its own position as greatly strengthened if a Tsar were anointed by the

Patriarch. Mr Yeltsin has played a part in promoting the debate. Last year, soon after his re-election, he spoke of the need for Russia to find a new purpose and ideal, to fill the vacuum left by the discarded and discredited Communist ideology. The only clear idea to emerge from

his proposal was that of restoring the monarchy. There were even rumours

that the President supported the idea and had drafted a secret decree inviting Grand Duke Georgi, considered to be the closest surviving relative of the Tsar, to come to Russia. The Kremlin issued a swift denial that any such secret decree existed.

While interest in the monar-

inappropriate. Oil spill: Russian officials acknowledged yesterday that

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Meet Ray.

chy is clearly growing, it still

seems inconceivable that Rus-

sia would be able to revert to a

system that it rejected vehe-

mently more than 70 years

ago. The notion of a constitu-

tional monarch in a country

that has tended towards

strong, or even authoritarian.

ieadership would seem very

about 1,500 tonnes of oil spilt out of a burst pipeline in southwestern Russia, but said the Volga river was not affected. The emergency situations ministry said between 300 and 400 tonnes of oil spilt into a tributary of the Volga, the Meshetka, after the incident, but that dams and "other obstacles" kept the oil from contaminating

Chinese deny Deng health fear

THE Chinese Governor senior leader. Deng Xiaoping, had worsened. A Foreign Ministry spokesman here dismissed rumours of a massive stroke.

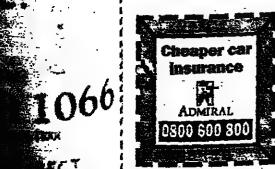
Asian stock markets have been shaken in the past two days by the rumours, despite their recurrence every few

There were also reports that other leaders, such as Jiang Zemin, the party chief, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, had cut short pro-vincial trips to return to Beijing to see Mr Deng, who gave up his last official post after the military suppression of pro-democracy protests in 1989. He has not appeared in public for three years.

Diplomats say the present leadership cannot claim the political authority once held by Mr Deng and appears uncertain of the way ahead. There are fears that his death could lead to instability.

Some envoys speculated that the senior leaders returned, if they did, because from the defection of a North Korean leader. Hwang Jang Yop, now in a South Korean diplomatic compound. Armed Chinese police were holding back North Korean officials who, until Monday, had gathered outside. However, Kim Jong II,

North Korea's leader, yesterday reinforced an earlier statement by his Government which suggested it might accept Mr Hwang's defection. He said "cowards" who wanted to leave the country mould go ahead and do so.



Dutch veto plan eases way to a two-speed Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

EUROPEAN states would be free to pursue closer integration without fear of veto in such areas as taxation and frontier controls, according to a draft for the revamped Maastricht treaty tabled by the Dutch Government.

The text produced by The Netherlands, the country chairing the treaty discussion. will serve as the basis for negotiation in coming weeks on a formula for a new multispeed Union that would amount to machinery for states to opt out of deeper

integration. The Dutch version, handed to other governments on Monday, allows for the veto to be preserved in future foreign and defence policy, but it sides with the strong majority of member states that object to Britain's demand for unanimous voting on every area of

says it will veto any scheme to create machinery for a "flexible" Europe that does not require unanimous consent for every such action. The Labour Party appears to share the Tories' qualms, although most other states argue that the formula would lead to

paralysis. Although it keeps the door open for various voting options, the Dutch draft says states must not stand in the way of the desire of the others to move to "closer co-operation" in internal Europen Union matters, provided that certain conditions

The main novelty of The Hague's proposal is that two thirds of member states must favour any such step. Once this was acquired, the new group could work for closer integration in such areas as indirect taxation within the states taking part in monetary union, health and safety in the workplace and the environment, according to the Dutch

A big bloc of participating states is needed in these so-

Commission to the Court of Justice, but the costs of any new policy would be born only the participating states. The Dutch text proposes that. in the field of immigration and justice affairs, support from a qualified majority of the member states should be enough to

authorise common action. Refining the machinery for a "flexible" BU will be at the centre of negotiations leading to the Amsterdam summit next June, at which EU leaders are scheduled to finish the

Maastricht revamp.

The scheme, which was first floated by the French and the Germans last October, has been embraced by a majority of the EU's 15 states as inevitable, given the need to accommodate a stream of new members from the former Communist bloc and the Mediterranean over the the next

Many, however, harbour qualms over its possible use

federalist partners, but they are also wary of the risk of its use as a means to push Britain

way to get 7.25% on by France and Germany and called core "Community" affairs to ensure that the EU is their close allies to reinforce a powerful "inner core" of EU not fragmented by competing integration. The British Government states inside the future zone of monetary union. his savings each year. The "co-operating group" would be able to use all the The Government and the Labour Party see flexibility as a solution to Britain's perennimachinery of the EU, from the al conflicts with its more

Ray likes to take it easy. Whether he's fishing or

planning his savings, Ray doesn't want to worry about anything. That's why he asked for Midland's brochure on HIDB (High Interest Deposit Bond). It's as safe as any savings account but it lets him earn better interest - a 7.25%

investment. He could have chosen a six month plan but Ray, true to form, isn't in that much of a hurry.

Ray's found a stress-free



Commonwealth ministers delay decision on Nigeria sanctions By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE prospect of Commonwealth sanctions against Nigeria receded yesterday, after a ministerial action group called for further evidence from human rights activists before making a decision.

Its failure to recommend immediate sanctions was criticised yesterday by Labour, which said the mission was paving the way for a sell-out. Canada, one of the strongest critics of Nigeria, also voiced anger at the slow place of change there, but was pleased that human rights campaigners would be able to express their views to the action group. The eight foreign ministers,

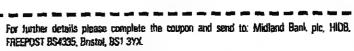
Zimbabwe, called for more information from civilians and non-government organisations at a further meeting in July before giving their advice to the Commwealth heads of government meeting in Edinburgh in October.

Labour has taken a strong line against the military Government of General Sani Abacha, and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, has made clear Labour's intention to seek tougher curbs. including oil sanctions, should the party come to power.

"It is vital that the Commonwealth sends a strong signal to General Abacha that it will led by Stan Mudenge of not tolerate the delaying of the timetable for democracy in Nigeria," Tony Lloyd, the Shadow Foreign Minister, said yesterday. He added that free and fair elections must be held by October next year, and all political prisoners released before Nigeria could be readmitted to the Commonwealth. After two days of talks in

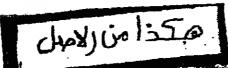
London, the ministers issued a

statement expressing "concern" that political detainees. including Chief Moshood Abiola, had not been released and that detention without trial was still taking place in Nigeria. It also noted that local elections had been delayed by three months beyond their scheduled date.





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designer at Givenchy. Hos-sein Chalayan and Antonio oing bust used to be what British fash-Berardi are small-scale but ion designers did best. For a while solvent, But internationally, it is a husband and wife team called Clements Ribeiro who producing bold but unwear able clothes, before fizzling out are making the biggest waves. amid financial acrimony. Now a new generation of designers has emerged, and they have not gone bust, nor do they look like doing so.

Suzanne Clements, 28. (British, from Epsom, Surrey) and Inacio Ribeiro. 35. (from the Brazilian city of Bel Horizonte) met at St Martin's, gradu-ating in 1991. They set up their own label in 1993, but it spring collection, featuring cashmere knits in rainbow stripes, that caught the attention of

> apart* Go to New York and you'll find them in most of the major department stores. But in Britain, their clothes are available in only about a dozen stores, notably Liberty, their

Nevertheless, their international success, plus a two-season deal with the highstreet chain Dorothy Perkins, have allowed them to move from their cramped studio into a three-storey building on South Molton Street.

Three weeks before London Pashion Week, they are fes-tooning the flat roof with Chinese lanterns, so that they can stand around sipping champagne for the photographer from Le Monde, so Clements Ribeiro will appear to be at the epicentre of hip.

swinging London. The reality is that they are going to bed at 3am, and starting again at nine. "British designers have changed," says

ers who were big in the Eighties par-tied every night. Nobody does that London had a bad any more." It is only recently reputation. that Clements Ribeiro have even for things wanted to be part of "the London thing", as Suzanne refers to it. "When falling

we started we didn't want to be pigeon-holed be-cause London had such a had reputation for late delivery and things falling apart." Their style was originally a

reaction to what was happening in 1993. "Everyone was deeply into this grunge, deconstructivist thing. We went for fine finishing and couture fabrics. We also worked with colour when everything else was in grey and black."

At first they were out on a limb, but fashion followed them. Suzanne characterises their style as "clumsy cou-

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Having built up such a strong identity, it was a brave move to link up with Dorothy Perkins. Although they knew it would provide a cash injec-tion, they also feared that it would downgrade the label.

The first "Clements Ribeiro for Dorothy Perkins" collec-tion included striped A-line skirts and embroidered camisole tops. Everything went with everything else.

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· Ray

figure Color

The state of

. Above all, the collection transferred their trademark eccentricity and odd colour-ways to the high street. The spring/summer collection, shown here, is more commercial in one respect, however the fabrics are more "up-market". "In the first collection we used polyester to be a bit we used polyester to be a our inonic," says Suzanne. "We realised that playing with good taste, bad taste is such thing fashion people understand but other people don't."



Niles? I'd avoid him

American television sitcom has toppled Hollywood as the place actors want to be seen. Frasier's David Hyde Pierce explains why. Interview by Joe Joseph

howbiz stardom isn't vision sit-com rather than in all Oscar night bashes movies? Pierce thinks it could in Bel Air and getting invited to Fergie's children's birthday parties. There is always a downside.

For David Hyde Pierce who, for the second year running, has just won an American Comedy Award for his role as Niles. Dr Frasier Crane's snooty brother in the sifcom Frasier - the downside is having to spend most of a weekend stay in London inside a hotel room filming promo links for Channel 4.

Having 20 cameramen, make-up girls, sound recordists, directors and publicity people hang on your every whim while you record twosecond promos that range from "Watch Channel 4" all the way to "This is Channel 4" is not merely the price of so-so television fame. It is the price of a startling new brand of fame that has become the special preserve of American TV sitcom stars.

It is one thing to wonder how a pompous, churlish Seat-tle psychiatrist like Niles got to

be one of the bestloved comedy characters in America: I mean, weren't we told that American audiences like their TV heroes to be appealing and in control, and that's why our testy, putupon Victor Meldrew was made more cuddly when One Foot In The Grave was unpicked and retai-

lored for Bill Cosby? Pierce, who in addition to his two American Comedy Awards has won an Emmy, a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild Award for the role, hands the credit to a script which has created three-dimensional characters, "selfish and petty in some ways, but also generous and good-heart-ed in other ways, which is like most human beings".

OK, OK, but how did American TV sitcom toppie Hollywood as the place where top. actors now ache to be seen? Because while we weren't

looking, it has. Why else are stars such as Julia Roberts, Elliott Gould, Tom Selleck and Danny DeVito — the kind of stars who spent years crawling out of the Mogadon miasma of afternoon TV soap, actors who would until recently have sacked their agent if he had suggested doing a cameo on a television sitcom - all now queueing up to appear on Friends, and Larry Sanders and Frasier? How come the stars of Seinfeld are now demanding more cash per episode than many wellknown Hollywood stars earn per film? Why is Michael J. Fox now starring in a tele-

be because TV has become more legitimate. In Frasier, in the radio station, we have all these call-ins. People call in to Frasier for help, and the people they get to do the voices of the call-ins are an amazing array of celebrities. We've had Timothy Leary and Patri Hearst and Henry Mancini, Jodie Foster, the playwright Wendy Wasserstein, a broad

spectrum of people. Yes, but why do they all auddenly want to? "Hopefully, it's a testament to the quality of the show, that people are not embarrassed to be associated with it. But also I think that as more and more TV people have become movie stars people such as Tom Hanks, Bruce Willis - that it's starting to be an easier move back and forth between the media."

Pierce never planned to be on TV at all. An East Coast boy. Yale-educated, he had turned his back on a musical career ("I found out that I didn't have the interest to work the hours, and nor did I have

the talent to nursue any sort of concert 'I'd love to career"). He was happy doing reperbe a film tory theatre, places star, but I was in lights in 20watt bulbs, if at all.
A TV star? Just don't see never crossed his mind. that really

"Not ever! I thought I would be happening' going nowhere near television. I just had no interest. It's much more separated

over there than it is over here. People don't tend to go as frequently back and forth from one to the other. I was very happy. I was in New York doing theatre and I loved it. Even now I still prefet doing stuff in front of a live audience, which is what we have on the

The episodes are written and directed and performed for the audience that is there, like a stage play. Some of the best laughs that you can get are the ones when you just stand there, because they've given you a wonderful line to deliver. And you just let the laughs wash over you. That's a

great pleasure." He describes Niles as "intelligent, well-dressed and badly married ... Niles's wife, Maris, is cold yet distant, but Niles loves her ... probably because she reminds him of his mother. His relationship with Frasier is a mix of sibling rivalry, condescension, passive aggression and brotherly

So do Pierce and Niles have anything in common? "Oh, probably more than I

care to admit.™ Pierce is certainly more relaxed than Niles, and al-

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"I'd say I'm seen as Niles, the character on the show, and that's very scary," says Pierce

though his diction is precise, it doesn't have that clenched-buttock anget that Niles has mastered.

What about any natural affinity?

"No. I think he's someone who, if I had the choice, I would spend as little time with as possible."

But Pierce adores the role and adores his fellow cast members. He rates Kelsey Grammer - Frasier Crane as "the best. Not only because he's so talented, but also he is the most generous actor. None of us would have the success in the show that we have if he

didn't allow us to. "There are plenty of stars who don't want anyone else to shine. He's the opposite of that. He feels, like, he looks better, the better the people are around him. And we love

working together." But where does Pierce go from here? Frasier could be on air for another three years or so. Maybe longer. He has done low-key, walk-on parts in

movies - The Fisher King, Crossing Delancey, Sleepless in Seattle, Wolf; he played John Dean in Oliver Stone's Nixon - and he is aware that he is being slightly strait-jacketed by Niles Crane.

"It's a little scary. And I wouldn't even say I'm seen as an American comedy star. I'd say I'm seen as Niles, the character on the show, and that's wery scary." Which is why he is fishing around for a film role that will snap his fans out of their prejudices and preconcentions.

redictably for an industry famed for its skill at thinking crearrively, so many of the film scripts that plop through Pierce's letterbox in Los Angeles "are so similar to Niles that I turn them down out of hand. The rest? So far I still haven't found anything I want to do film-wise".

Theatre still owns his heart -- Pierce's first stop in London was Wyndham's, to see Albert

Finney and Tom Courtenay in Art — "but in trying to combat the whole people-seeing-youas a certain-character problem, just the mass exposure of a film makes it seem more the right thing to do at this point".

So maybe something directed by Tarantino? Tell us David, do you see yourself in a sharp black suit, looking mean and pumping bullets into people?

Yeah, but that's just in my private life. I'd love to be a film star, but I don't see that really happening, except on a very small scale. I keep turning down all those Sylvester

Meanwhile, he is called away again to pucker his lips for the camera in the now oven-hot Savoy bedroom and to swoon: "I love Channel 4." The long march to stardom is made up of thousands of such small, unglamorous steps Only nowadays, it's the sort of TV work that Julia Roberts and Jodie Foster might well

Who wins in the adoption debate?

week; both are concerned with the same issue: who is a fit parent and who is a fit child? I suspect many of the people who argue against abortion are those, too, who appland the Government's recent initiative to remove, in the words of Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, "fashionable theories" from the adoption procedure.

Both views are tenable independently: neither necessarily supports the other. I would go further: those who are opposed to abortion are concerned with the rights and the welfare of the prospective child; and yet the voices raised against what are perceived to be the current rules dominating adoption are motivated overridingly by the desires of the putative parents.

I don't disparage or question those desires: the psychological and emotional need for children is not to be underplayed. But rather than applauding the Government's sensitiv-

ity towards those who have the need but not the ability to hear children of their own, I am appalled by its cruel

I don't argue with its central premise: as the Times leader pronounced yesterday, "adoption is no place for political correctness". But for Mr Dorrell to suggest that childless coudes are being prevented from adopting just because their views and social situation are not considered right-on enough by bearded and sandalled social workers is just phooey. The reason so many people who want to adopt can't is because there aren't enough children.

Well, that's not entirely Nigella Lawson the case: there aren't enough babies. Those who have gone beyond the stage of being cuddlesome bundles can be left to

languish in institutions for years. There's no market for them. I am not being unsympa-thetic I can see why a childless couple would prefer to adopt a newborn rather than an angry, institutionalised five-year-old.

A woman's overpoweringly physical need to hold a baby, her baby, in her arms is an essential driving force in life. But it is important when people write or speak about childless couples being rejected as appropriate parents that they should consider another truth. Many would-be adoptive parents are, in effect, rejecting those they consider to be inappropriate children. I'm not saying there aren't idiocies commit-ted by social workers or local authorities. I

remember a case not so long ago when a Chinese baby, who had been left in one of those horrific "dying rooms" because she was a girl, was not allowed to be adopted by an English couple because it was felt she would not then learn about the "richness of her own

Why should it be considered wrong to be concerned with matters of race, of blood? Sir-Stephen Brown was quite right to accuse Alan and Deborah Fowler of "appalling irresponsi-bility" in pretending they didn't know the grandfather of the orphaned Bosnian girl they had adopted was trying to locate her in order to bring her up himself. I think he was right, too, not to inflict enormous emotional upheaval on the child by forcing the Fowlers to send her back to her grandfather, but I hate to think how she might react to the story of her early life in later years.

It is chauvinism of the worst kind to think that just because a baby is "foreign" it doesn't deserve the same consideration as British babies up for adoption. And as for matters of race: we may sneer at the idea of a white couple being refused a black baby for adoption (and I agree the refusal shouldn't be automatic), but one can scarcely imagine the outrage that would follow a white baby being adopted by a black couple. Racism is a factor here, and we should investigate it both ways around, not pretend it is all a PC plot.

Perhaps it is the case that social workers sometimes give PC reasons for turning down prospective adoptive parents because they errongously feel that citing race or age may sound more acceptable, more intellectually sound, when the real reasons are based on that vague but crucial thing called instinct, and those very "commonsense values" that Mr Dorrell commends.

As was reported in yesterday's paper, when Jim and Roma Lawrence were rejected as inappropriate people to adopt a child, much was made of the reason given that they were not sensitive enough to issues of race and yet it now transpires that really it was because they were considered too blinkered in their approach. too intransigent - in other

words, not sensitive enough to the needs of a

Of course there are many natural parents who are insensitive to the needs of their children. Parents maltreat, beat and even kill their children. Michael Jackson paid a woman to bear his child and took it away from her a week after birth. It all makes my blood run cold. How much worse must it seem to someone who desperately wants but can't have children. But it is important to remember that the injustice, the cruelty, is nature's, not the social worker's.

Short of picking up and running with an old suggestion, made a few party conferences ago, which was that feckless single mothers could be made to give up their babies to nice middle-class people with nice Laura Ashleyed nurseries, one fact remains. The Government's tinkering with adoption procedure — good though it sounds to a disenchanted middle class on the eve of an election - isn't going to increase the number of babies up for adoption, so obviously it can do nothing to decrease the number of disappointed adoptive parents. To suggest otherwise is emotionally exploitative electioneering at its worst.

Quentin Crisp and the gay question

AS POR who is fit to be a child: just after James Watson, the discoverer of DNA, expresses the view that if a woman could find out that the foctus she was carrying were gay she should be able to abort it, out comes Quentin Crisp in favour. Often, he said, in support of Watson's

suggestion, he wished he had not been born. For some reason his un-

happiness is seen as corroboration that homosexuals are better off not existing in the first place. He's gay, he says it's all right, so it's OK for us to do so, too, is the implication. In another context, the

"self-hating Jew" is a welldocumented phenomenon: but that hardly justifies Auschwitz, Anyone but a committed anti-Semite might think that morbid self-deorecation might itself emanate from such lethal hostility, rather than the other way

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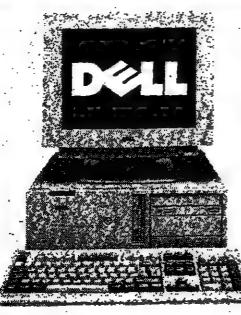
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Caught between two courts

Michael Zander supports

moves to restrict trial by jury

ny proposal to restrict the right to jury trial in-Levitably attracts fierce controversy. In 1993, furious opposition met a recommendation by the Runciman Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. We on the commission argued that in cases which can be tried either by magistrates or in the Crown Court by a jury ("either-way offences"), the defendant should lose the

absolute right to have a jury. The severe criticism of the proposal seemed to rule out its implementation. Particularly significant was the strong opposition of Lord Taylor of osforth, then the Lord Chief

So it is rather surprising that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has now decided that if returned to office he would introduce legislation to implement the recommendation. On this, in contrast to some of his previous proposals, I would sup-

The proposal does not affect trial by jury itself. The princi-ple at stake is who should decide where the case is tried defendant or court? For minor offences, trial has to be in the magistrates' court; for the most serious it has to be in

the Crown Court. There is no choice. But in the intermediate category, which includes theft cases, the defendant has had the right to insist on the Crown

About 80 per cent of defendants in these cases opt for

trial by magistrates. Of the rest, about two-thirds are sent for trial in the Crown Court by the magistrates and the other third elect for trial in the Crown Court. It is this last group (about 23,000 annually), who would be affected by the

choice

The defendant's right to sometimes said, to Magna Carta, but to the mid 19th century, when Parliament decided that some offences could be tried either in the magistrates' court or in the much slower and more costly higher court with a jury.

In Scotland, this decision is taken by the prosecution. The royal commission proposed that if prosecution and defence cannot agree on the matter, the decision should be made by the magistrates in the light of statutory guidelines.

The royal commission's motive was neither to save money nor to speed up cases (though it probably would do both). We thought that these decisions should in principle be made by the system. It is as wrong to leave to the defendant the choice of court as It would be to leave to him the choice of judge.

Defendants often choose jury trial because the acquittal rate of juries is higher than that of magistrates. In the royal commission's view, however, this is no more a valid reason for preserving the right than would be a defendant's wish to choose the Crown Court as a delaying tactic.

The point of principle is buttressed by powerful practical considerations. One is that as many as three-quarters of

those who ask for trial by jury for either-way offences do not ever see a jury, because they decide at the last moment to plead guilty. Defendants and their lawyers should of course take their decisions in what seems to be the defendant's best interests. But large numbers of last-minute guilty pleas (known as "cracked trials") do create problems. They add, for instance, to prison overcrowd-ing. Defendants who wait for Crown Court trial in prison and are then given a non-custodial penalty after plead-ing guilty have been in custody much longer than if they had been dealt with in a magistrates' court. And the very fact of a case being listed as a not guilty plea has the effect of increasing delays for all

Crown Court cases. Preparing for a contested trial that does not take place means wasting time and money. The waste of money mainly concerns the taxpayer. The waste of time affects not only lawyers but police officers, doctors and other experts, as well as ordinary citizens who come to court to be witnesses, only to find there

Defendants suffer too. Those charged with eitherway offences are three times more likely to receive a custodial sentence This should not be a in the Crown Court than in a magismatter of trates' court. Likewise, custodiai sendefendant's tences from the

> half times as long as those in similar cases dealt with by magistrates. Of course it will still be vital that the defendant whose case deserves trial by jury goes to a Crown Court. In such a case the prosecution would usually agree, but if the prosecutor were to be difficult, the magistrates would take the decision. guided by considerations men-

> > ne consideration, the

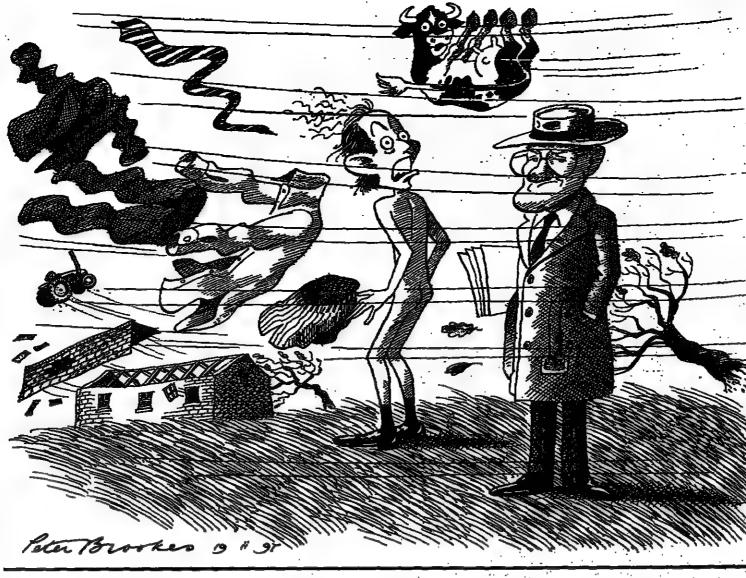
legislation.

Crown

about two-and-a-

royal commission suggested, should be the defendant's reputation, since jury trial is especially appropriate for cases involving potential loss of good reputation. Lord Taylor has suggested that this is unfair to the person with a criminal record. But is it? Other things being equal, a defendant with a prior record has less good reputation to lose than a defendant with none. That does not mean he should automatically be denied trial by jury for an eitherway offence. It simply means that the magistrates should take his criminal record into account, together with all oth-er relevant considerations. such as the date of the previous conviction, the gravity of the current accusation and its likely impact on his reputation

Any proposed change in the rights of the accused always requires the most anxious consideration. I believe that in this case what the Government proposes is sensible and fair. Michael Zander, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, was a member of Lord Runciman's Royal Commission.



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The new escalation

he following statements can-not both be true. "Nato enlargement is a goal worth every measure of our common effort . . . The new Nato can vanquish old hatreds, promote integration, create a secure environment for prosperity and deter violence in the region where two world wars and the cold war began." The speaker is Madeleine Albright, American Secretary of State. She is supported by the Court are British Government.

The second statement reads: "Nato enlargement would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-Cold-War era . . . It will inflame nationalistic, anti-Western and militaristic tendencies in Russian opinion, have an adverse side-effect on the development of Russian democracy and restore the atmo-sphere of Cold War to East-West relations." This speaker is George Kennan, veteran diplomat and Kremlinologist. He is supported by many letters to *The Times*

These people should sort out their difference, and soon. One of them is wrong, and if it is Madeleine Albright we are in trouble. In July, the Nato council proposes to admit at least three new members, probably Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Other applicants include the Baltic states, Romania, Slovenia and Bulgaria. Moscow is furious at any shift eastwards of the limit of Nato's Article 5 guarantee. This pledges that an attack on any member state is an attack on all — most important, on America. Enlargement will expand that guaranteed nuclear umbrells hundreds of miles closer to Moscow. Some say, the Cold War is over so why should Russia worry. But to Russia, if the Cold War is over, why is Nato worrying? Nato enlargement is the West's equivalent of Russian missiles in Cuba. The proposal has enraged Russia's liberals and reac-

tionaries alike. Anatoly Chubais, the sensible Kremlin Chief of Staff, agrees with Mr Kennan that it is "one of the worst ideas advanced by the West since the Cold War. To Mikhail Gorbachev it is "hawkish, conservative and aggressive". To President Yeltsin it is a disaster he could well do without. To his possible replacement, Alexander Lebed, it is a cloud that may have a silver lining. Western envoys and generals have warned against so gratuitously rubbing Moscow's nose in the dirt of Cold War defeat.

Madeleine Albright purrs that

America's pet plan to expand Nato means taking unnecessary risks

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Russia is overreacting. Nato enlargement will reward the new European democracies with membership of a looser family than the EU, which will not at present accept them. Nato offers American-sponsored security. "Freedom's boundaries", she says, quoting her boss, "should be defined by new behaviour not old history."

Nor should Russia fear encirclement, she says. Nato will not station nuclear or even conventional forces on Polish, Czech or Hungarian soil. Mr Clinton has offered Russia a Partnership for Peace. Russia can join in Nato planning, Nato training, Nato consultation, Nato

out-of-area operations, as in Bosnia. She pats the Russar on the head as its sweats through another turbulent night, reassuringly says she means no

Like hell. There is a side-effect to Madeleine Albright's placebo. Those who disagree with her, she says, are stuck in the past, "at the line where the Red Army halted in spring 1945". She recalls a different past, the past of appearement. She is Czech by origin, and remembers not 1945 but 1938. Liberals have always looked at menacing regimes and pleaded that domestic liberalism be given a chance. She will have no

For her, Russia cannot be allowed to dictate the terms of any new European settlement. If Russia is a mess, Russia is always a mess. If Russia is afraid of military revanchism, that is Russia's problem. If Russia is scared of encirclement, too bad. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are scared of Russia, and with better reason. The more unstable Russia is, the more worried they are entitled to be. It is their fears that enlargement must address. That is what Washington's Polish, Czech and Hungarian lobbies are demanding. Mr Clinton saw no reason to refuse them in his

election campaign. They had votes. This is at least Realpolitik. The central European states do not want Nato membership for the sake of a flag on the conference table. Nato is not a Rotary Club. It is a security alliance. Enlargement says clearly that Russia is still dangerous, unstable and not to be trusted. Russia has just lost a war and merits no considera-tion. To Madeleine Albright, appeasement has a nice harmony, but a

terrible coda. Europe cannot be permitted to make that mistake again.
The question is which mistake? Ask Britain's politicians or diplomats about Nato enlargement and they give a despairing shrug. It is like global warming or drug cartels or even EU enlargement. It keeps the conferences busy, the jets flying and the hotels full. Bris-

ish soldiers and diplomats privately admit that enlargeiv de witoni at just this moment in Russian history. Even wiser heads in central Europe agree. But July is pressing. Made-

leine Albright may not be clever, but she speaks for the most powerful nation in Nato. Europe has other problems and is not inclined to argue.

'n July, Britain will sign a guarantee that I believe it does not mean to honour -- covering precisely the region where it dishonoured one 60 years ago. That treaty commits Britain and America to devote their armies and nuclear arsenals to defend Poles, Czechs and Hungarians in a possible border dispute with Russian armies if the latter were to advance across Belarus or Ukraine. That is what Nato's Article 5 means. Unless troops are sent in now - and we pledge that this will not happen - then nuclear deterrence will have to suffice. Any Russian threat would come from a presum-ably reckless yet still well-armed regime in Moscow. Extending the full nuclear shield across Polish, Czech and Hungarian border towns would be hugely expensive. Worse, it would be hard to convince Russian generals that American and British citizens

would put their own cities at risk. This is the escalation that we are returning to by enlarging Nato. It is a classic of international fidgeting, of foreign and defence ministers taking the line of least resistance, without looking where that line leads. The sole purpose of altering Europe's sec-urity balance should be to increase Europe's security. The enlargement of Nato appears to offer three (and possibly five) nations a near meaningless guarantee, in such a way as seriously to endanger their security from the East. It encourages them to be less cautious in relations with Russia, and encourages Russia to be more paranoid in its relations with them. Madeleine Albright pleads with Europe's sceptics to stop looking at enlargement as a zero-sum game". But she offers a minus-sum game. Britain, needless to say, has kowtowed.

These are huge stakes. Those who believe Madeleine Albright is right assume that Russia is bluffing. Moscow will get used to an enlarged Nato. Generals and bureaucrats on both sides will spend time and money ach other mat nothic changed. They will say that enlarging Nato is about sustaining America? commitment to all of Europe, Central and Eastern as well as Western. The Partnership for Peace charter will

keep Russia happy. But if Madeleine Albright is wrong and Mr Kennan is right, Mr Clinton's mistake, and Britain's, is awesome. Russian democracy is sorely vulnerable to a military or right-wing coup, Russia's élite has always feared encirclement. Independence for the Balts, Belorussians and Ukrainians may prove shortlived if Moscow gets too nervous. Already there is pressure to divert Russian resources into rebuilding its army and weapons base. Russian generals, reacting to enlargement, last month demanded that Mr Yeltsin retarget their missiles at Nato capitals. Who began all this?

Nato, fidgeting. Needless to say, this will not feature in the British general election. Not since 1964 has a party (the Conservatives) decided to fight a contest primarily on foreign policy. There are no votes in collective security. When Britain's possible next prime minister. Tony Blair, was recently asked about Nato enlargement, he smiled and assumed it was "a good thing". It was clear he had not really thought about the matter.

If Mr Kennan is right, Mr Blair
might soon be thinking about nothing else. Mr Kennan is 92 and has seen Russia in all its moods. Sometimes old men know best.

Stand up for British culture

Philip Delves

Broughton offers

counselling

The British Council, like the United Nations, is an organisation in which small heroic acts are perpetually overshadowed by large crass ones. For every African teenager who learns English from a khaki-trunked British Council teacher, there is a fuss over expensive office space and overpaid administrators. Just when the Foreign Office examines its contribution to the British Council budget, up popped the story of the council's generosity in 1976, when it gave £1,000 to a man calling himself Genesis P. Orridge He took an exhibition round America of pictures of bloodstained women's clothing and his common law wife

Now the council has landed itself in another Orridge mess — for the chattering rather than slavering classes this time — with the proposal to close down lending libraries across Western Europe and South-East Asia and replace them with computerised

Cozey Fanny Tutti in collar-loosening

"information centres".

The closure of the lending library in Athens with its Byron and Brooke associations is the focus for those opposing the decision. A worthy, but awfully familiar Greek chorus of constitutions of the constitution of the cons cerned parties has spoken, from John Mortimer (the Thresias of literary institutions) to Fay Weldon (the Cassandra). Patrick Leigh-Fermor, the travel writer and deputy director of the British Council in Athens after the Second World War, has been roused from his Peloponnesian home to denounce a "creeping philistinism manifesting itself all over the place". An organisation of Concerned Eng-

lish Speakers of Athens, who sound like the sorts endlessly snapping the handles off bone china teacups in frustration at the reptile Modernity, is agitating for a Common-wealth Library to house the British Council's 11,000 books. It seems inevitable, however, that this week, the largest collection of English books in Greece will be handed to the Greek Government — an act which even a group of Greek academics has said would have "a deplorable effect on the prospects for Greek students studying in English".

The council puts forward all kinds of explanations for its proposal, most of these students with management.

of them riddled with managementspeak. It says that its main task is to decision-makers and promoting British trade, culture and education. Duli old lending libraries, it argues, are no longer central to this.

In Europe and boom economies such as Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia, there is, it says, a constant need for information about Britain. with government reports and legal decisions required instantly. No time or money is left for curious English language students to browse through The Thirty-Nine Steps or King Lear. In truth, the British Council and

the Foreign Office are engaged in a chesp, undignified cultural with-drawal. The Foreign Office, which funds just under a third of the British Council's £430 million annual budget, will be reducing its contribution by £7 million over the next three years. Each major lending library costs around £200,000 a year. All the talk of moving with the times is a cover for cost-cutting.

hat is worse, the British Council has fallen for the functists fallacy. It believes that by computerising and becoming a better servant of business, it is making itself more "relevant". But anyone can provide computerised information and a stack of CD-Roms. With a commercial incentive, hundreds of companies could make the efforts of the British Council look prehistoric. Yet none would replace the lending libraries, with their value that can never be represented on a balance sheet. With its lust for relevance, the British Council could well end up redundant.

In Germany, the only section of the lending library that has been kept open is contemporary British fiction.

The same is true in Hong Konga, where the rest of the library has been given to the British Council in Hanoi. It is a weedy capitulation at a time when it is the duty of any representative of British culture that can dig in to do so. In 1989, the British Council gave

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£70,000 to fund a tour of the Middle East by a rock band from Newcastle with the oddly Edwardian name Hurrah! The aim was to make Britain appealing to Middle Eastern youth via pop music. The audiences came in immaculate dress to the concerts and looked on in bemusement at the scruffy musicians. It was not what they wanted or expected from the British Council. Furthermore, in an era when record companies promote Western artistes all over the world, it was a superfluous gesture. The British Council was trying to be Brian Epstein, and it failed. Now it is trying to be Microsoft and Reuters, rather than a guardian and promoter of the best of British culture

At its best, the British Council is a Britain's finest cultural ambassador yet it now seems resigned to being a keyboard-happy embarrassment. By slashing away at its lending libraries. it is serving neither its nation nor the P-H-S | culture that it is bound by Royal | Charter to promote.

grand Samerana and American

Late calls

AS JOHN MAJOR eases himself into the last straight before the election, his minders are keeping him hidden from the Conservative parliamentary candidates clamouring for attention.

Tory candidates and MPs are

anxious to have their photographs taken with the Prime Minister so as to include them in their electioneering brochures. But Conservative Central Office, under the watchful eye of the brutish chairman. Brian Mawhinney, is refusing to countenance the idea.

There are no more slots, it can't be done," runs the stock response from the Central Office wallahs who organise photoshoots. Those who have missed their pre-election snapshot are dismayed: "I know he is supposed to be our secret weapon. But is he such a secret he has to be kept from public view?" protested one former

minister yesterday. Most of the disappointed MPs have opted for a photograph instead of their performances in the Commons chamber during Prime Minister's Question Time. "It makes us look rather important,"

added the former minister.

photo-opportunities in the past," says Central Office. They should not have left it so late."

Drum role

THE PIPES AND DRUMS of Britain's only private army will soon be drowning out the wildebeest of the African veld. The Atholi Highlanders, guardsmen of the Duke of Atholl's home, Blair Castle, are holking up their kilts and heading off in May to march for the new duke at his home in the Northern Province, formerly Northern

It will be the first time that the Highlanders, who have never seen action, have blown African dust through their bagpipes. "John Murray, the late duke's successor, is South African, and he now has the right to the private army," says Captain Andrew Gordon, their adjutant. "We're only visiting, though. We'll not be away from Blair Castle for long."

• The excitement of performing live appears to be irresistible to Noel Gallagher, the Oasis song-There have been numerous writer. Only last year, after an

The state of the first of the state of the s



abortive tour of America, Noel and his group declared they would never play live again. But on Monday he turned up, heavily dis-guised in a floppy hat, to play backing guitar for another Manchester band, Ocean Colour Scene, at the Albert Hall. "He slunk on, played a few riffs, and slunk off again,"

Double dished

MIDDLESBOROUGH Football Club's temperamental Brazilian player — known simply as Emer-son — has a history of absconding to Rio to appease his homesick wife and escape the grim British winter. Now he faces another, equally British, problem. Carping neighbours. They reported him to the council for installing a large satellite

dish so that his wife, who has suffered from depression, could watch both Portuguese television and Sky. They pointed out that the dish's diameter exceeded the permissible 90cm. So he bought two smaller dishes.

The neighbours quickly informed him of local regulations stipulating just one dish per household, and Emerson is now rueing yet further his arrival in Little England.

Hall of fuss SANITY has disappeared from

Exeter, where a bizarre light has



artefacts, from ceremonial headdresses to swords and fancy Most of the stuff was either bought or given rather than pil-iaged. Nonetheless, Grant wants the lot returned to Africa. The local

Labour candidate disagrees, and Rogers, who claims to speak up for family values, has taken advantage of the issue to call Nigeria "a corrupt country, riddled with so-cialism and Aids".

Front page

THREE-QUARTERS of a century after its composition, Sir William Walton's Toccata for Violin and Piano is to have its first full performance next month. Composed in 1922, it languished in Walton's drawer at his home in Italy until his death in 1983, when his widow, Susana, sent it to his publisher, Oxford University Press. Somehow, the first page of the score then

went missing.
On the only recording of the work, made a couple of years ago, the beginning of the work is still



missing. Paul Barritt, the violinist who will be performing it at the Oldham Festival, badgered OUP for a full score. On January 9, the press sent

him a letter saying the first page had been lost for good. The very next day, however, it sent another letter saying the page had been found. Lady Walton, an Argentinian, will be in Oldham, Walton's home town, for the performance. According to Barritt, "she is

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STARR IN HIS EYES

Starr may head for the beach: Clinton cannot

On Monday, Americans celebrated Presidents Day. By late evening, Bill Clinton may have thought it was his birthday rather than those of Washington and Lincoln. Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater independent counsel who has stalked the First Couple for three years, announced that he would shortly resign. The special prosecutor has accepted the enticing post of dean of the law school at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. He will take up his duties in August

Although he stressed that his investigation was "active and ongoing", and that observers should "read nothing into this", the implications of Mr Starr's decision seem clear. It is difficult to believe that a man of his authority would abandon his position at this point if he intended to press charges against either the President or the First Lady. While other aspects of his remit, notably the misuse of FBI files by White House officials early in the Clinton tenure, may yet prove politically embarrassing. criminal charges concerning Whitewater itself seem unlikely.

Nothing was said, but the relief surrounding the Administration was evident Unnamed officials suggested that the shadow of scandal which has long fallen over the Clintons might finally have lifted. Such optimism is misplaced. For as one set of ethical questions shows signs of disappearing, another looms on the horizon. Although the location and circumstances are different, the deluge of details emerging about the Democratic Party's fundraising practices since 1995 have much in common with the Arkansas land deals. They both reflect on the company that Mr Clinton has chosen to keep.

The revelations about the lengths to which he was prepared to go to win campaign contributions get more outrageous by the week. In October it transpired that Indonesian businessmen had contributed large sums of money to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) using American residents as the attentions of another special prosecutor.

conduits. That was transparently against the spirit of the law, but arguably not the letter. After that, it became clear that John Huang, then deputy assistant Commerce Secretary, used his "free time" during official visits in Asia to chase donations for the DNC.

However, such dubious activities extended much further: Under Mr Clinton, wealthy benefactors were offered unusual access to key office-holders, including those responsible for regulating their corporate affairs. Even overnight accommodation at the White House was available. The President found time to host coffee mornings for those who might release riches in his paety's direction. One of his guests was an arms merchant for the People's Republic of China. The trail now leads towards Mexico's drug barons. Mr Clinton has certainly lived up to his promise to be a free trade President.

These sordid transactions have a strong echo of Nixon-era misdoings. The Administration then was accused of swapping political favours for private funds. Even if no such bargain occurred at any gathering attended by the President, the impression of potential impropriety is extremely powerful. Unlike the Whitewater events, which played themselves out in Little Rock some years before Mr Clinton became a presidential contender, these fresh scandals happened in the American capital, only months ago.

So far, Janet Reno, the US Attorney-General, has resisted calls to appoint a new independent counsel to investigate the whole affair. The signs are, though, that her opinion may be changing. Such a move may occur within weeks. It is difficult to see how she can avoid it. The possibility that American policy at home and abroad might have been for hire is infinitely more important than property speculation in northwest Arkansas. Mr Clinton should enjoy his respite. Mr Starr may be headed for the beach, but Mr Clinton may soon be inviting

ONE NATION

Asian entrepreneurs should move from home to House

The real Asian tigers are on our doorsteps. The spirit of enterprise that has transformed the nations of the Pacific Rim is now taking over the British high street. A list of Britain's 100 richest Asians in the journal Eastern Eye reveals the extent to which ethnic diversity has underpinned economic growth. The creation of a multicultural society has not. however, been painless.

The difficulties were poignantly underrday by the pr yet dignified figure of Stephen Lawrence's mother at the London launch of the European Year Against Racism, The debate provoked by the failure to bring his murderers to justice has forced an agonised examination of how society deals with racial tensions — but the creation of One Nation depends just as much on celebrating achievement as acknowledging difficulties. The recognition of how much Britain now owes to its new entrepreneurs can play a. part in building tolerance and guaranteeing esteem for all minorities.

The list might have been designed to confound prejudice. Although many of the millionaires have roots in those sectors of the economy where the Asian presence is traditionally strong, such as fashion and retail, the impression overall is of diversity. Internet advertising tycoons, metal exchange dealers and independent television entrepreneurs all jostle for prominence in the ranks of those who might now be considered, with a nod to Hyderabad rather. than Hollywood, the new moguls.

It is noticeable that many of the businesses listed are family affairs. Although generalisation can be an easy refuge for the casual racist it would be perverse not to acknowled-

ge the closeness of most Asian families in Britain. The combination of tradition, faith and communal identity has meant that Asian families have shown greater resilience and solidarity than their neighbours'. The cultivation of older domestic virtues has helped newer entrepreneurial instincts to

A commitment to the hearth has not, however, held Asian women back. Two of the most impressive buccaneers in the list are female. Meena Pathak and Perween Warsir may have started in the kitchen but they now hold their own in boardrooms. Family firms may grow out of a simple concern, like the Pathaks' spice business, but many of the older Asian concerns have responded to changing economic circumstances by diversifying. Indeed, the aristocrats of the Asian business community like the Hinduja dynasty can no more be pigeonholed in one sector of the economy than could Lord Hanson or Sir James Goldsmith. Yet, even as they grow, the nature of the Hindujas' business remains firmly family.

The Prime Minister has gone out of his way to draw attention to the contribution of ethnic minorities to Britain's revival. Mr Major's own loathing of prejudice is not in doubt, but it is a matter for regret that no party in Parliament has succeeded in finding more than a handful of candidates from racial minorities for winnable seats. Tokenism. quotas and the promotion of the mediocre would all be counter-productive. But given the wealth of Asian talent creating wealth for Britain there seems to be no shortage of potential parliamentarians. The more visible a role the nation's ethnic minorities play in shaping the future, the better for Britain.

TEST OF CHARACTER

Those who enjoy their cricket win: and vice versa

One Test victory does not make a winter. Atherton does not rate the one-day games as siumph. But it certainly throws a ray of sanshine onto the cricket pitch of the mind, and revises hasty verdicts in the greatest game of skill and chance. If England had come straight home after losing all three one-day internationals on the Zimbabwe leg of this tour, they would have been met with rotten tomatoes at Heathrow and humiliating headlines. Atherton would have been lucky to have kept his job as captain.

Now, according to the scorebook, England were foiled of a clean sweep in this winter's five Tests only by rain, a single run and a last-wicket stand by the worst international batsman in the world. Such ifs are the charm of cricket. So yesterday's dawn victory in England kept radios on all night for its swings and roundabouts. Only once before had an England team scored more than 300 to win a Test. Atherton added 118 to his 94 not out, when he became only the seventh England player to carry his bat. Without him, England would have lost. So, after a miserable start, the captain has confirmed his form as a world-class opening bat, and solayed his way into the cricket books beside such other England openers as Hutton and Hobbs. When such players open the innings, confidence runs through the pavil-

ion and foreboding through the fielders. Television has increased the pressure on all sportsmen for instant success. For they are now highly paid entertainers, and expected to win for their paymasters. mer. And once they believe that, they can.

serious cricket. But many of his public do. So England can now crown their winter campaign by winning them, if possible with style. Their dressing-room siege mentality and whinging publicity have not done much for the generous spirit of the game. It is a noble cliché. But it is also true: England cricketers are ambassadors, and should be seen to enjoy themselves and the countries they are lucky enough to be selected to tour.

And England's first win of an overseas series since 1992 has not raised them overnight to the top of the world rankings. Just as their relative failure in Zimbabwe did not make them bottom of the league. But their first six batsmen are beginning to look like making runs rather than routs. Atherton has become one of the most formidable openers, especially in a pinch. Tuinell and Croft have spun for victory. England's strike bowlers are on and off and wide. And from the opposition. Zimbabwe have made their mark as a world power, and Daniel Vettori has made his mark as a schoolboy prodigy with a twirl that is going to cause trouble.

So in spite of its bad temper and bad luck, this has been a good tour, so far. After the rain comes the sunshine. After the duck or the umpire's bad decision comes the perfect late cut or the unplayable reverse swing. Uncertainty is the element in which cricket, like life, glories. At this rate England will start to believe they can thrash Australia this sum-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London Et 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

criminal justice

From Baroness Blatch. Minister of State, Home Office

Sir, William Rees-Mogg (The Lords aren't soft on crime, just sensible", February 17) is wrong to imply that under the Crime (Sentences) Bill petty thieves will automatically receive a three-year prison sentence for a third conviction. They will not.

The Bill targets persistent house burglars - career criminals who make money out of breaking into other people's homes. The "petty thief" who steals milk bottles from some-one's doorstep - which after all is where most milk bottles are left by the milkman - will not be subject to automatic minimum sentences

It is essential that the public have confidence in our criminal justice system. If people believe that justice will not be done then that is the route to vigilantism and mob rule. A sample from the Crown Courts in 1993 and 1994 showed that the average sentence for a first conviction of domestic burglary was 16.2 months - and the burglar serves only half of that. For a third conviction it was 18.9 months and for a seventh or more it was 19.4 months. In fact almost 30 per cent of those convicted of domestic burglary for a seventh time were not sent to

I do not believe - nor do the police and most members of the public, including the man on the top of the bus referred to so disparagingly by Wil-liam Rees-Mogg — that this is a suffi-cient punishment. The Bill will ensure that anyone convicted of a third offence of burgiary (not petty theft) re-ceives a sentence of no less than three

years in prison. William Rees-Mogg may believe it is wrong to listen to what the public have to say about law and order. I do not. Government has a duty to reflect public opinion and to place before Parliament proposals to address such anxieties. At the end of the day it is for Parliament to decide. In this way confidence in the criminal justice system will be strengthened.

Yours sincerely, EMILY BLATCH, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, SWI. Pebruary 17.

Cancer therapies

From the Director-General of the Cancer Research Campaign

Sir, The Cancer Research Campaign believes people with prostate cancer have a right to know about available

I was therefore surprised to see that Professor Miles Irving was suggesting (letter, February 13) that the Campaign was "causing confusion" by advising men concerned about prostate cancer that curative treatment is available as an alternative to a policy of "watchful waiting".

Professor Irving also implies that the Campaign supports the PSA screening test for prostate cancer which, until there is evidence that this is effective, we do not.

Few would dispute that treatment of early invasive cancer improves life expectancy over treatment of metastatic (secondary) disease. Despite the lack of clear evidence at this time on the survival benefits of curative options over a watch and wait policy (and a current Medical Research Council trial is addressing this issue), it seems reasonable to offer the option of curative therapy to men if they wish it.

Finally, you stated (article, February 4) that barely £400,000 a year was being spent on prostate cancer re-search in this country. The Cancer Research Campaign alone is spending more than £1 million annually on research into this disease.

Yours sincerely, GORDON McVIE, Director General, Cancer Research Campaign, 10 Cambridge Terrace, NW1.

Degree standards

From the Vice-Provost of London Guildhall University

Sir, I am concerned at the impression given by today's report, "A-level ques-

tion is used in degree course exam".

The unit being examined deals with computer hardware, and is taught over 13 weeks to students at South Thames College who do not have Alevel computing. Thus there was just one question of an A-level type in an ab initio course examination. If all such questions were prohibited, universities up and down the country would have difficulty with units in mathematics for economics, statistics

for biologists and the rest. The syllabus of which this paper is part has been validated by a panel of experts and is monitored through our quality assurance procedures which were satisfactorily audited in 1995 by the Higher Education Quality Coun-

A serious debate about progression. through a modular degree cannot be conducted simply by juxtaposing individual questions from discrete examination systems with alarmist claims about declining standards of education. I am confident that contemporary graduates are as well prepared and accomplished as ever their prede-

Yours faithfully, DEIAN R. HOPKIN, Vice-Provost, London Guildhall University, 31 Jewry Street, EC3. February 17.

Public opinion on Broader view on appointments of women in the Church

From the Dean of St Paul's

life of the nation.

Sir, Your plea that the Church of England might be "a broad church" (lead-ing article, February 14) will be greatly welcomed by many. It has been the peculiar genius of the Church of England to contain diversities of theological tradition and religious experience, whilst holding resolutely to the task of offering public ministry to the whole

The significance of the Church of England's decision to ordain women to the priesthood and simultaneously to make pastoral provision for those who are opposed is no more and no less than our desire and determination to be in the best sense of the words a broad church and not a Protestant sect. There are many of us who are glad to serve as priests in a church which has the imagination, the honesty and the courage to live with the am-

biguity and the pain that are insepar-able from these things. Let it not be forgotten that the integ-rity of the Church of England stands or falls not by its position in law as the established Church but by its continuing commitment to the principles of catholicism and reformation. Key words in our Anglican vocabulary are not liberalism and compromise, but liberality and comprehensiveness.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MOSES, The Deanery, 9 Amen Court, EC4. February 14.

From Mrs Sally Barnes

Sir, Far from causing a split, the appointment of a woman priest to St Paul's (report, February 13) is uniting the cathedral with the rest of the diocese and bringing it into line with mainstream Anglican practice. Two thousand people of all ages, many of them from other churches or

of no religious affiliation, visit the cathedral daily. The presence of a woman priest alongside her male colleagues will affirm to them the position of women within the Church of England. It will also give a positive and public signal to women and men. in and outside the Church, that age and gender are no longer an acceptable means of discrimination in any walk of life.

With over 80 women priests in London, congregations and chaplaincies everywhere are now appreciating the benefits of women's priestly ministry. They, with Londoners throughout the diocese, will join us in welcoming the appointment of the Reverend Lucy Winkett to St Paul's and all that she brings.

Yours faithfully. SALLY BARNES (Secretary to the London committee, WATCh (Women and the Church)), 94 Hamilton Road, NWII. February 18.

From Canon R. J. Halliburton

Sir, I am grateful to you for your discerning and balanced leading article. Certainly, if the Church of England has any claims to belong to the one holy catholic and apostolic church, then it must continue to admit both integrities of belief on the issue of the ordination of women to the priesthood.

My own opposition to such ordinations is not based on prejudice against women in positions of leadership and responsibility, but on consideration for our unity with the rest of Christendom. The few of us in the Anglican tradition who for many years now have been involved in the ecumenical movement and knowing and loving both Europe (Eastern and Western) and the Third World remain profoundly concerned that Christians should work together.

We believe that we are one church and one ministry with Roman Catholics, Orthodox and many Lutherans in the apostolic succession, and that we should work together, pray together and share one another's ministry. We are bound to have some disagree-

We look forward to seeing clear

statements of policy in each party's election manifesto and a commitment

ments. But we should take the greatest care to move forward together and not as a group of independent bodies who believe themselves entitled to be creative and innovative where they see

The General Synod decision of 1992 was taken by people who seem to care nothing and know nothing about our fellow Christians in many other parts of the world who are cutting deep swaths into unbelief and injustice but are agreed that, as yet, it is not appropriate to ordain women to the priest-

Yours sincerely, JOHN HALLIBURTON, I Amen Court, EC4. February 15.

From Mr William E. Bridge

Sir, You report that the self-confessed "almost tone deaf" Dean of St Paul's, Dr John Moses, has said that the remarkable ability of the woman candidate as a soprano singer made her the strongest candidate for the appointment as a minor canon of St Paul's Cathedral. Apparently the other can-didates were all male.

The various inventions and devices being used to secure the appointment of a priestess never cease to amaze: but this must surely top them all.

Yours sincerely, WILLIAM E. BRIDGE, 175 Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent. February 13.

From the Reverend M. E. Percival

THE STATE OF THE PERSON.

Sir, May I inquire how many men in the past have been appointed as minor canons six months after their ordination as priests?

Yours faithfully, MARTIN E. PERCIVAL. 12 Moorfield Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. February 14.

Political realities of long-term care

From the Chairman of the Continuing Care Conference,

Sir, Each year some 40,000 people have to sell their homes to pay for care and at least one in four of today's older people will need a high level of care in their lifetime. These are uncomfortable facts and many people may have difficulty facing them. Sadly, it would appear that the political parties also have difficulty facing up to the impor-

tance, and immediacy, of the issues. As members of the Continuing Care Conference, we believe that the funding and provision of long-term care reires nothing less than a coherent, national framework within which to develop a range of solutions to meet different needs. Tomorrow we launch our own manifesto which concentrates on three major points: securing

funding, guaranteeing standards and

to action within the first 18 months of the next Parliament. Long-term care matters to all voters - not just the 24 per cent of voters who are pensioners: they deserve nothing less. Yours faithfully, PAUL SEYMOUR.

developing awareness.

SALLY GREENGROSS (Age Concern England), MERVYN KOHLER (Help the Aged), CHAI PATEL (TC Group pic). B. WOOD (PPP Lifetime Care pic), Continuing Care Conference, 12 Little College Street, SW1. February 18.

Trial by media

From Mr N. B. C. Evelegh

Sir, A real concern in the difficult and tragic situation surrounding the Stephen Lawrence case [letters. February i7] is that the young men named by the Daily Mail do not have the financial resources to obtain satisfaction through a libel case. Can I suggest that the Mail offers to underwrite their legal expenses if they wish to bring a charge of libel.

Bearing in mind that they maintained their right of silence at the inquest when they might have been expected to demonstrate their innocence, I doubt that this would cost the newspaper very much. In this way it would demonstrate its recognition that trial by media is normally unacceptable. Yours sincerely.

NICK EVELEGH. Hodges Farmhouse, Cranbrook, Kent February 15.

From Mr A. J. Dilley

Sir, Dr David Walter contrasts the way Singapore and Britain face the issue of working parents and their children's needs (letter, February 12). I know Singapore well and have a great admiration for Lee Kuan Yew,

British Council

From Sir John Hanson, Director-General of the British Council

Sir, Your report (February 14; see also letters January 28, 30) may have given the impression that all the British Council's lending libraries have been closed in every Western European country except France. in fact out of 21 libraries in Western Europe 15 currently offer lending services to library members. We have never aimed to run general public library services which serve the needs of allcomers at the British taxpayer's expense. All 21 provide a reference collection, information about Britain and, increasing-

ly, modern electronic services. Outside Western Europe the Council operates a further 172 libraries and information centres, 122 of which also lend books to their subscribers.

Overall these services bring millions of people each year into contact with Britain, its culture, its expertise and the English language. Our main problem is finding the resources to keep up with the overwhelming de-

Yours faithfully, J. G. HANSON, Director-General, The British Council. 10 Spring Gardens, SWI.

Latchkey children

but when he suggests that perhaps children would be better cared for if they could stay on at school to do their homework until a parent returns home, it is not a "mature discussion between government and people to solve everyday problems" — it hap-

If children stay at school to do "homework" it is, of course, no longer homework. The school day is simply extended. The value of homework, if well set, lies in doing it at home.

Yours sincerely. A. J. DILLEY. 46 Ambleside Drive, Spalding, Lincolnshire, February 12.

Fish and pheromones From Mr J. K. Brennand

Sir. The spelling of the fly is Tup's in-

dispensable, not Tupp (article, February 1; letters, February 8). An essential ingredient of this fly, invented by R. S. Austin, is ram's wool, taken from the underparts, or more specifically scrotum, of a tup. When this secret was divulged to the famous angler G. E. M. Skues he named the fly Tup's Indispensable. This surely puts a different complexion on the debate on pheromones and female angling prowess.

I agree with Ms Wilma Paterson's letter — let us give credit to the ladies for their skill as anglers, remembering that the sine qua non for outstanding success in salmon fishing is the opportunity to fish first-class water. The three record-breakers referred to by Simon Jenkins had this good fortune, and made the most of it.

Yours sincerely, J. K. BRENNAND, 1 Brompton Terrace, Perth, Tayside.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Getting the bird

From Lord Wright of Richmond, GCMG

Sir, Mr Rauf Denktas's canary (Diary, February 14) is not the only bird to have caused difficulty for interview-

As Private Secretary to the British Ambassador in Washington in the early 1960s. I well remember the frustrated efforts of Robin Day to overcome the screeches of the Ambassador's peacocks, while trying to con-Macmillan on the Residence veranda.

The problem of the peacocks was incidentally compounded a few weeks later when the New Zealand Ambassador's dog (from next door) severely mauled one of them.

It was left to me to explain to both Their Excellencies what had happened: an early piece of diplomatic train-

Yours faithfully, PATRICK WRIGHT, February 14.

Birthday mission From Mr Kenneth Adams

Sir, You mentioned that on his 21st birthday Bunny Rymills (obituary, February 13) was flying over Ger-many as a sergeant pilot in a Whitley bomber. As a contemporary of his at the Oxford School of Architecture, I remember his account of how he cele-

With bombs gone and the crate of beer almost empty he and his crew "went round again" aiming their empty bottles at their target with as much skill as could be expected under such circumstances, and finally dropping the beer crate itself, thus losing forever the opportunity to reclaim the 15 shillings refundable deposit.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH ADAMS. Eastwater Close. Snowdenham Lane. Bramley, Guildford, Surrey. February 15.

Biter bitten

From Mr Nicholas Serpell Sir, Philip Howard, in his comments on Nigel de Gruchy's confusion of Draco with Dracula — "Journalists like a good howler" (February 14) -

commits one himelf. It was, in fact, Christopher Lee who donned the black cape and fangs as the Count in the Hammer horror films. Peter Cushing, in the role of Abraham Van Helsing, did not need

elongated cuspids: just a stake. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS SERPELL 68 Falmouth Road, Redruth, Cornwall.

February 14. From Ms Patricia Tyrrell

Sir, Philip Howard's comment brings to mind a recent lament in our local newspaper that the night sky can only be seen clearly nowadays by people who live in the Styx. A rather deeper night, presumably.

Yours faithfully, PATRICIA TYRRELL 17 Century Court. Porth, Newquay, Cornwall.

February 14.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 18: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Group Captain David Walker was received by Her Majesty.

Members of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group were invited to Tea with The Queen.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

Majestry this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Northwood Head-nuarters, Northwood, Middlesex.

His Royal Highness this afternoon isited the John Lyon School, Middle

visited the John Lyon School, Middle Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Lord Lucas of Crudwell (Lord in Waiting) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Lord Hanksy (formerly Her Majestyr's Ambassador to Sweden) which was held in St Margaret's Church Westminster Abbey today.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in

succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty. BUCKINGHAM PALACE February IB: The Princess Royal, President. The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon visited Greenwich Carers Centre, Macbean Centre, Macbean Street, London SEIR.

Her Royal Highessa, Patron, SENSE-de Numeral Desiblind and Rubella Association, later visited Unit 4, Winslade Way, Carford.

ional Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, afterwards visited Eltham Citizens Advice Bureau, the Library.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 18: Mrs Michael Cordon-Lengox has succeeded Miss Jane
Walker-Okeover as Lady-in-Waiting
to Queen Elizabeth The Queen ST JAMES'S PALACE

February is: The Prince of Wales this afternoon attended a Reception at the Lebanese Embassay to launch an Urban Design Task Force, to be undertaken by The Prince of Waler's Project Office in the Lebanon later this team.

uns year.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to view the restoration work.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 18: Princess Alexandra,
Honorary Commandant General,
accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir
Angus Ogilvy, this morning visited
the Royal Hong Kong Audiliary
Police Headquarters, Kowloon.
Her Royal Highness subsequently
opened the new Auxiliary Police
Headquarters at Kowloon Bay and
attended a Reception.
This afternoon Princess Alexandra
and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy
attended a Reception for Honorary
Presidents and members of the
Junior Police Call at the Police
Officers Chib.
Her Royal Highness and the Rt THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

Officers Chib.

Her Royal Highness and the Rt
Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy later amended
a Dinner given by the Royal Hong
Kong Police Force at Police Headquarters, Caine House, Hong Kong.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chan-cellor, will visit Edinburgh Univer-sity and attend a dinner at the Playfair Library Hall, Old College

The Prince of Wales, as President of The Prince's Trust, will visit the trust's Hackney project at 6 Gilpin Road, Gilpin Square, London E5 at 10.20; will visit the Shadwell Basin project at Shadwell Plerhead, Glamis Road, El at 11.15; and will visit Tower Hamlets College, Pop-lar High Street, E5 at 12.30. The Princess Royal, as Patron of

The Butler Trust, will visit Fel-tham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre, Bedfont Road, Feltham, at 9.45. She will open Meadow Wood School, Coldharbour Lane, Bushey, at 11-45; as Patron of the International Health Exchange, will attend the launch of the Orde of Best Practice in the Management and Support of Aid Personnel at the Royal Society of Medicine at I Wimpole Street at 1.00; as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Ex-port Council, will visit Burro, 19a Floral Street, Covent Garden, at 2.10; on behalf of The Royal Associaton of British Dairy Farmers, she will present The Princess Royal Award at Buckingham Palace at 4.00; and as Patron of the British Executive Service Overseas, will hote an Buckingham Palace

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will open Ridley Bagels, Ridley House, Dunhams Lane, at 11.40; will open Electron Lasers for Industry, Avenue One, The Business Park, Lenchworth, at 12.15; and will visit Laminar Medica. Tring Industry Estate. ica, Tring Industrial Estata, Tring,

Legal appointment

Judge David Clarke, QC, is to succeed Judge Wickham when he redres as a Senjor Circuit Judge on the Northern Circuit on April 30. Judge Clarke will sit at Liverpool Combined Court.

Birthdays today

The Duke of York celebrates his 37th birthday today.

Mr Peter Baldwin, former chief executive, Radio Authority. 70; Sir John Collyear, engineer, 70; the Rev Dr G. Henton Davies, Principal Emeritus, Regent's Park Coliege, Oxford, 91; Sir Nicholas Fenn, diplomat, 61; Lord Forbes, 79; Mr John Freeman, former MP, diplomat and chairman, London Weekend Television, 82; Lord Henniker, SI; Dr Robin Jeffrey, chairman, Scottish Nuclear, SS; Miss Hana Mandlikova, tennis

player. 35; Professor Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 82; Dr Alan J. Munro, Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 60; Mr Nigel Nicholls, Clerk of the Privy Council, 59; Sir Daniel Petiti, former chairman, National Freight Corporation, 82: Mrs Erin Pizzey, author and founder of first shelter for battered wives, 58; Mr Peter Price, former MEP, 55; Mr Feier Frice, former MEP, 55; Mr Smokey Robinson, singer, 57; Mr Colin Sharman, UK senior partner, KPMG, 54; Miss Gwen Taylor, actress, 58; Mr Brian Tesler, former deputy chair-man, LWT (Holdings), 68.

Memorial services

Lord Hankey

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Lord Lucas of Crudwell at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Hankey held yes-

work of Dist Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. Camon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated and the Rev John Sheldon led the prayers. The Hon Alex Hankey and Lord Hankey, sons, read the lessons and Mrs Parnela Walsh, cousin, read from the works of William Wordsworth.

Dame Gillian Brown gave an address. During the service the Hon Beatrice Hankey, grand-daughter, sang Handel's I know that my Redeemer liveth. The Rev Roger Holloway. Priest Vicar, the Rev F. Armand-Smith and the Rev David Horner were

robed and in the Sanctuary. The Lord Chancellor attended The Secretary of State for Poreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Margetson and the Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Mr Francis Richards. Among others present

Diplomatic Service by Mr Francis Richards, Among others present were:

Stephanie Lady Hankey (widow), Mr and the Hon Mrs Peter Alchin ison-inkw and daughter), Lady Hankey (daughter-in-law), the Hon Mora Hankey, Mr and Mrs G Alchin and Mrs Mikhall Anggard-Runston (grandchlidren), the Hon Christopher and Mrs Hankey (brother, ink Hon Christopher and Mrs Hankey (brother, ink Hon Lady Benn (ststerl-in-law), the Hon Lady Benn (ststerl-in-law), the Hon Lady Benn (ststerl-in-law), Mrs L V Brian (ststerl-in-law), Mr and Mrs Desmond J Ward and Commander and Mrs H A Stuart-Menteth (brothees-in-law) and Staters-in-law), Mr Rupert Hankey, Mr and Mrs Michael Compton, Miss Daky Newille, Mr Andrew Wildon, Mrs and Mrs Wildon, Mr Cerl Hankey, Mr and Mrs Michael Compton, Miss Daky Newille, Mr Andrew Wildon, Mr and Mrs Simon Erridge, Lleutenant-Colonel and Mrs John Hibbert, Miss Hibbert, Brigatier Nigel Haynes, Mr T S Haynes, Brigander Miss R G Farmer, Ms Josephine Compton, Captain Peter Benn, Mr William Benn, Mr Stozz-Menteth, Mr Cartistopher Walsh, Miss Katrina Walsh, Miss Anna Walsh, Miss Katrina Walsh, Miss Anna Walsh, Miss Katrina Walsh, Miss Anna Walsh, Miss



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Lord and Lady Greenhill of Harrow, Baroness Hylton-Roster, Sir Edward du Cann. Sir Amborry and Lady Meyer, Sir Frank Roberts, Sir Donald Murray, Sir Denis and Lady Wright. Sir Patrick Reilip, Lady Curle, Sir Douglas and Lady Dodds-Parter, General Sir lan Gourlay, Sir John and Lady Osborn. Lady Ross, Lady Spencer, Mr Amborse and Dame Dean Dowling.

Mr David Anderson, Mrs Farmand-Smith. Mrs J A Briance. Mr M Butler, Mr J Cain, His Honour and Mrs Brian Clapham. Mr David Horner, Miss Li Langley, Mrs Jeremy Leigh Pemberton, Mrs Yvonna MacReen, Mr and Mrs Peter Printe, Mr Anaiole Rainey, Mr Francks Rainey, Tarlana Countess Zubott-Rainey, Mr Hugo Rainey, Mr AC Rainey, Mr Hugo Rainey, Mr Mss Margaret Rees, Mr John R Smoker, Mrs S A Wadsworth, Mrs Colin Campbell, Mr J C Marshall (Old Rugbelan Society) and many other friends.

Miss Beryl Reid

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Miss Beryl Reid was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Very Rev David Elliott officiated. Miss Susic Blake gave a read-ing. Sir Harry Secombe gave an

address and Miss Elleen Aftains paid tribute. Miss Issy van Randwyck sang Cole Porter's Every time we say goodbye with Mr Larry Adler, mouth organ, accompanied by Mr Dave Hardey, piano. Among oth-

Dave Hardey, piano. Among others present were:

Mr Peter Reid, Mrs Susan ReidPovali: Lady Secombe, Sir Fergus
Montgomery, MP, Mr and Mrs
James Sharkey, Mr Simon Sharkey,
Mr Gawin Barker, Mr Paul Strike,
Mr Hityd Harrington, Mrs Betty
Milne, Miss Barbara Windsor, Mr
Bernard Cribbins, Mr Timothy
Alichison and Miss June Whitfield,
Mr Richard Jackson, Mr Ned
Sherrin, Mr Michael Aspet, Mr Ken
Cranham, Ms Dorothy Stratton,
Miss Retta Read, Mr Matthew
Bourne, Miss Bella Emberg, Mr
John Bird, Mr Malcolm Finnimore,
the Rev Michael Hurst-Bannister,
Mrs Penny Davenport, Mr Duncan
Weldon, Mr and Mrs Freddle Jones,
Mr Peter McEnery, Mr Robert Luft,
Mr Ken Parry, Mr Michael Codron,
Miss Olivia Ward, Mr and Mrs John
Ward, Mr George Evans, Mr Robert
Bruce, Mrs Audrey Goldmith, Mr
Kelth Kra Kaushaar.

Mrs Janice Neeman, Mr William
Small, Mr Rosope Deane, Mr Roy
Setton, Mrs Vivien Sams, Mr John
Wright, Miss Mangaret Andreazd,
Mr Derek Hayden, Mrs P Abel, Mr
Garath Thomas, Mr Christopher

Downes, Mr Michael Mear, Mr Michael Bevis, Ms Patricis Reid, Mr Francis Burnow, Mr Raymond Piowman, Mr John Roscoe, Mr Iohn Addy, Mr Pleter Rogers, Mr Richard Jackson, Miss Jean Baird, Miss Carol Weston.

Miss J Hinden, Dr Christina Backsi, Mr James Thomas, Mr Roy Saward, Ms Rossle Essop, Miss Poliy Gray. Mr Craig Douglas, Mr Anthony Rawie, Mrs Louise Smeile, Major Lance Brest, Mr Michael Tyrreil, Mr John Bullock, Mr Peter White, Mr Richard Redding, Mr Roy Pyke, Mr John Hart Dyke, Mr Alect Bregonzi, Mr Derek Gibney, Mrs N Skelton, Miss Prunella de Havilland, Mr Peter Nunse, Mr John Skelton, Miss Prunella de Havilland, Mr Peter Nunse, Mr John Skelton, Miss Rosemary Steet, Mr and Mrs Ronald Wolfe.

Mr Ian McGarry (general secretary, British Actors' Equity Association), Mr Johnny Dennis Green Room Club) with Mr Alan Curtis and Ms Joliet Mander; Mrs Rosemary Stevens (Actors' Royal Theatrical Fund), Mr Sidney Yuunoze (The Stoge newspaper) with Mr Patrick Newley: Mr James Pellow (Sie of Wight Theatres), Councillor Jeremy Roberts (The Key Theatre, Peterborough), Mrs Usic Mr Standy Wilse of Wight Theatres), Councillor Jeremy Roberts (The Key Theatre, Peterborough), Mrs Louis Lish, Music Hall Society, Mr Ken Sephton (Galley) First Nighters), and many other Irienda.

RHS Flower Show

Signs of spring sparkle through the winter

By Alan Toogood, horticulture correspondent

DESPITE the rain and gales the first signs of spring are apparent at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show with sparkling dis-plays of early flowering builds. Snowdrops feature in many

exhibits, but they are creating an extensive white carnet on the stand of Poxgrove Plants, of Enborne, ioshire, where more than 50 kinds are on display. This gold-medal exhibit includes snowdrops in all shapes and sizes, from the fat flowers of "Bertram Anderson" and "Gaiates" to the doubleerid Gausses to the course-petalled "Wairus". Other outstand-ing cultivars are "John Gray" with big heavy blooms and the tail upright "Benhall Beauty". Hoop petticost dalfodils, or cul-

tivars of Narcissus bulbocodium, are being featured by Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishops Hull, Soroerset. They range from the lemon yellow "Tiffany", through cream "Nylon", "Tariatan" and "Mus-tin", to white "Taffeta".

Bursts of sunshine through the glass roof of the hall are encourag-ing the crocuses on the stand of

Jacques Amand, of Stammore, west London, to open their flowers. The generous drift of Crocus sleberi Firefly, with lilac flowers sporting bright orange stigmas, is particularly eye-catching.

Many other early-llowering plants are also belping to create welcome colour at this show, which opened in Westminster yesplants by Edrom Nurseries, of Coldingham, Borders, Include a primrose called Primula Tantalion with light violet flowers and faring-covered leaves, a choice plant for a cool shady spot. Corvialis are in vocue, and a new Britain is Corydalls solida transpivanica with deep pink flowrs, easily grown in a sunny spot with well-drained soll.

A colourful display of conflers which includes deep gold Abias nordmanniana "Golden Spreader" has won a gold medal for Lincluden Nursery, of Bisley Green, Surney, Other plants for winter effect are dens, of Kenton, Devon, including several willows such as Salix x rubra "Eugenei" with reddish cations, and S. alba "Dart's Snalor with corics rew-like stems. Burnooose Nurseries, of Redructs. Cornwall, baye an unusual willow - S. x caprea "Curty Locks" with twisted red shoots and sliver form a small tree. Although the RHS ornamental

plants' competition was considerably better supported than the January competition, the recent gales have reduced the number of entries, Mrs E Bullivant, of Stourton House Garden, Wilt-shire, has won the class for four trees or shrubs shown for their flowers, fruits, folizge and col-oured bark, with Sarcococca humilis, Cornus alba "Sibirica", Elacagnus pungens "Maculata" and Skimmia japonica. Mr M. A. Nelhams, exhibiting for Tresco Abbey Gardens, isles of Scilly, Comwall, has won the class for four ornamental plants of different

genera in bloom, with Protes. nisannae, Acacia longifolla. Leucadendron laurefolium and Agonis marginata. The class for a conifer shown for its foliage has been won by the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, with Calocedrus decurrers "Aureovariegata", and Mr R. D. Klehtwort, of Hearlands, Haywards Heath, West Sussex,

has won the class for a confifer shown for its cones, with Cupressus arizonica Clauca."

In the British Iris Society's competition for early bulbous (renautae) trises, Mrs T. Naylor, of Maidstone, Kent, has won the ruinipeckham cup for a collection of hybrids and species. Mr B. Raughen, of Downe, Kent, has gained most points in the competition and has also won the Putricle Linnegar memorial trophy for a "garden" of hybrids and species.

The following arties have been awarded gold medais: Martin J. Allen. of Adjam. Cleveland (patriculous of Fridiante, Dr A. P. Brown, of Lindon (wahrrodours of Freatherstone, Wolverhampton gouache paintings of bearded rises; and Romilly Swan, of Reading, Bertshirt wahrrodour of souache paintings of succulemes.

The show, in the New Hortfullating Hall, Greycoat Street, westminster, is open today from 10 mm to 5 pm.

Service dinner

RN Medical Service

Surgeon Vice-Admiral A.L. Revell, Surgeon vice-admiral ALL Revolu-Surgeon General, Ministry of De-fence, was the guest of Officers of the Royal Navy Medical Service serving in the London area at a dinner held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich to mark

Surgeon Commodore kins presided.

Dinner

United & Ceri Cash Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, was the host at a dinner of the United & Cecil Club held last night at the House of Commons, Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the club, pre-sided. Dr Brian Mawhinney, MP, was the principal guest and speaker and Sir Anthony Garner also spoke.

Bruno Gabriele

A Memorial Service for the life and work of Bruno Gabriele will take work of Bruno Gabriele will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Thorsday, March 20, 1997. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: Miss Tina Castillo. One Broadgate, London, EC2M 7HA.

The March Ball

The 1997 March Ball is being held at the Hyatt Carlton Tower on Thursday, March 6. Mr Steven Norris, MP. will be the guest of honour. For further information telephone 0171 352 0102.

Service luncheon

RASC and RCT Members and Committee of the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport Officers Luncheon Club entertained Major P.J. Sheppard at huncheon yesterday at Mark Masons Hall, St. James's, Brigadier D.N. Locke, presided.

Receptions **IIM Government**

Mr Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Mr Jeremy Harley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Afrorein and comments at a reception given yesterday by Har Majony's Government at Lancaster House to mark the launch of the South East Asia Campaign. British Salety Council

Sir Neville Purvis, Director Gen-eral of the British Safety Council, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Armourers' Hall for the Diploma in Safety Manage-ment coverds.

Barraneas Secci Baroness Seconds DBE, IP, was the host at a reception held last Thursday at the House of Lords for the European Union of Women. Jaguar Cars Ltd were the spon-

sors. The Right Hon Stephen Dorrell MP, and Ms Sibiana Boerio, Financial Director of Jaguar Cars Ltd, were the speakers. The Right Hon Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP, and 164 guests were present

University news Codord

St Antony's College Elected to son honorary fellowship: Geoffrey Elliott.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.E. Gidley Kitchia and Miss N.M. Vanden Berghe The engagement is announced between Toru, son of Mr and Mrs Greville Gidley-Kitchin, of Kemsing, Kent, and Nadine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Joseph Vanden Berghe, of Castlelough,

Mr P.J. Hollis and Miss G.E. Merkison The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Hollis, of Starnfordham, Northumberland, and Gill, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Don Meckison, of Dundee.

Mrs Robert Howell, of Brookmans Mis Robert Huwelshire, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Hooker, of Little Hallingbury, Hertfordshire.

Mr J. Randall and Miss A.P. Stockbridge

Mr P.J. Wilnon

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Nicolaus Copernicus,

DEATHS: Blondin (Jean-François Gravelet), acrobat and tightrope walker, London, 1897; Ernst Mach, physicist, Hear, Germany, 1916; André Gide, writer, Nobel istureate 1947, Paris, 1951; Knut Hamsun. novelist, Nobel laureate 1920, Grimstad, Norway, 1952; John

overthrowing the French Govern-

founded by Mrs Hoodless in Ontario, Canada, 1897. It was introduced to Britain during the Firm World War.

guaranteed by an agreement signed in London by Britain. Turkey and Greece, 1959.

40.00

Jan 18 18 18

44 4

PERS

1.035.037 met.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

I will not unlify the grace of God; if righteousness comes by law, then Christ died for nothing, Galatians 2 : 21

BIRTHS

Al-DARBOUS - On February 14th at The Fortland Hospital, to Gemila Al-Muzawa and Hamad, a lovely little girl, Haya, a sister for Layan.

AXTOM - On February 10th 1997, to Miranda (née Cole) and Harry, a daughter, Anabel Grace. SEVERLEY - On February 16th, to Victoria (née Brusches) and Peter, a daughter. A

CHRISTOPHERSON On Formal Page.
CHRISTOPHERSON On February 14th, to Karen (née Ensink) and Peter, a son, Antony Felix.

Ellot.

CERON - On February 1445 with Science Appal Informer, to Textill (note Tourses) and Govin, a daughter, Olivia Gence Ritchie, a vister for Henry and Alyssa.

INFORM - On February 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Claudia (note Harris) and leftrey, a sun, Daniel Sun Harris Appale Company 15th at 15th at

MARCHART - On February 11th, to Mary (nee Endeding Smith) and Simon, a son, Land Name Mar, a son,

for Heary.

PERSIMA - On Sth February, to Frances (nés Sackey) and Migel, a besturful develter, Olivia Sumana Janet, a sister for Daniel Jerome. WOODS - On 17th February, to Jean (née Philitps) and Neil a daughter, Blimboth India a sister for Katherine.

DEATHS

BESON - Josephine Grace on 18th February, Dendy loved wife of Trever and mether or Jean and Catherine Francial Requiem at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 22nd Fabruary at 8 am. Frensong and Thanksgiving on Saturday 22nd Harch at 5.30pm, Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Friends of Winchester Cathedral, Deanery Cottage, The Glose, Deanery Cottage, The Close, Winchester SO23 915. winchester SCES 915.

BHANDAR! - Arup Kumar,
beloved hoshand and father
passed away 16th February
in Poots, 16th, Sourned by
jane (née Braithwaite),
Madhu, Phasan, Tarus and
the Resinhwaite family.

DEATHS

BLYTH - On February 15th 1997 James John peacefully in hospital at Bradford-on-Avon aged 90 years. of Salterood, Hythe, Kent aged 83, on 18th February after a short flowers purera private. No flowers please. private. No flowers please.

Problems I am did peacefully on 15th February 1997 after a long filmes. From 1 farths at the MM-Warwickshire Counatorium, Cokley Wood, near Warwick, on Monday 24th February at 12.30 pm. Family flowers caly. Denations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund clo AE. Bennett & Some, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Aven, CV37 65E.

ROWN - Ronald Geoffre BROWN - Ronald Geoffrey.

Ried peacefully at home on

Saturday February 15th
1997, with strength and
dignity, after a long and
brave struggle, eged Sc
years. Deanly loved husband
of Manager and Frilip,
beloved elder son of Dorothy
and brother of David.
Cremation for family and
close friends on Tuesday
February 25th at 11 am at
Tamworth
Crematorium, Sutton

February 25th at II am at Tamworth Road Crematorium, Sutton Coidfield followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Currs Lane City Centre Church, Birmingham at 12.20 pm. Family flowers only please, if desired douations to Imperial Curre Thomas Brong & Sons, 362 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solibul 250 4AY.

CAMBON WHE The Comrebruary 15th after a long
illness borne with great
counage and dignairs, Service
at Mortlake Chromatochum at
2pm Saturday February
22nd. Flowers to Cheises
F/D, 260B Fulham Road,
SW10 9EL (0171) 352-0008. CHAPPLE-GILL - Berkeley

CHAPPLE-GILL - Berkeley Turberville. Brynderwen Hall Bwich-y-Chau, Powys. Fassed away pascefully at home on February 13th 1997 aged 30 year, after an illness borne with december of the season of the

CRASTINES - Remark Raydo on 14th February 1997 at home in Maidstone. Selowed husband of Peggy; dearly leved father of Glynis and nuch loved and loving gaarded of Felly and Kate. Friests burds in Seffold. Memorial Service to be amounted large. Dearding in the remove large. Dearding in the remove in the remove

CURWEI - On February 15th, peacefully, Remneth Harry ("Ken") of Bridgmorth, Shropshire, aged 70. Belowed Rusband of Valerie, dear Father of Trevo, Robert and Tina. Funeral, 5t Mary's Church, Bridgmorth, Saturday February 22th, 11 as the Brown Burgers and Crook Later West, Penny 2nd Phillips Fib's, tel: (01746) 765258.

JOHANE - Daris Cheveston (née Copé) aged 96 peacefully at Hutton Village Nursing Home, Renutwood, on 18th February 1997, Beloved wife of the late Harbert James (Billy). Loving mother of Judy and Mary and grandmother of Janet and Alen. Cremation at Dalmaring Chemical Monday 24th February at 11.15 am. Family flowers only.

boggert - Joyce Ellers passed away suddenly but peacefully after a long inness, aged 70, on February 17th at 8r Catherine's Hospics. Much loved and deeply missed by her children Christopher and Ecsemary and all her family and friends. The funeral will take place at the Sursey and Sussex Crematorium, Balcombe Road, Crawley, Sessex on Fiddey February 21st at 215 pm. Flowers and the Cather Control of Ballard & Shortall Ltd. Haslett Road, Crawley, Consultant Road, Carwley, Consultant Road, Crawley, Consultant Road, Crawley, Consultant Road, Crawley, Consultant Road, Consultan DOGGETT - Joyce Eileen

Haslett Road, Crawley ENVAROS - Bushautt Stud Golden, Cashel, Ce. Tipperary, Ireland. 17th February 1597 penerally at her residence, Josephine Marie (Pint), Beloved only daughter of Major and Doris. Much regretted by her cousins, relatives, neighbours and a large circle of friends, E.I.P. Removal from Foparry's & Marins Funeral Home, Bank Face, Tipperary Town at 6.85 o'clock this (Wednesdry) to St. Patrick's Church, Kilfesele, Requiem Mars tomorrow (Thursday) at 11.30 o'clock this (Wednesdry) to St. Michael's Cemetery, Tipperary Town.

POOTHY - On 16th February
1997 The Reverend John
Guy aged 85 years, husband
of the late Dephine, a loving
fether and sonadad, Puneral
Review at All Enink Chema,
Reviewoose, Norofolis, Friday
21st February at 220 pm.
Flowers or donations for
Lettissiams Chema may be
pass at the service or sent
c/o Thornalley Funeral
Services, 51-53 St James
Street, King's Lynn.

Street, King's Lynn.

HARVEY - Marjorie Colston
passed away peacefully at
Ealing on lefth February.
Beloved wife of Bill and
rather of Irods and the bare
Diana. Invent Service at
Breakspear Crematorium,
Ruisilp, on Friday 28th
February at 280 pm. Flowers
and enquiries to Sherry
Punetal Service, 317 Ruisilp
Road East, Greenford, reit
(0181) 578-1402.

HIGGIES - Autony John

(0181) 578-1402.

HIGGINS - Antony John Brefney aged 61 died suddenly at his home in Flockia on February 15th 1977. Beloved implant of Jean Marie Higgins (née Gawelle) and leving brother of falls Hischemald Constry and brother-law Anthony Ormely, Also stavived by three nisces, Anna, Panelope, Claire and asphere, Jehn and history great-algoes and nephews all of Scotland.

Hill S. On Eviden 14the 1 nepsews all of Scotland.

NILLS - On Friday 14th
February, Audrey Alice
Isobel, beloved mother of
Vricans, Inline and Lymes,
at Westmorland General
Enepthal and 70. Pressal at
St Mary's, Allithwaits, on
Friday 21st February at
1230 pm. Family flowers
only by request.

of the late Belinds Jane Jackson-Haider ar hearthroken to annutus hearthrolen to annument the passed away poscendily on Wednesday 12th February after a long filness. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life of love and statifice will be held at 9th Glies Angliem Church, Park Lane, Ashbeed, Surrey at 2 pm Fidery 21st February followed by hurlal in the churchyard at 3 pm. All enquiries please to Longhurst Undertakers. Physon. (01372) 7225-86 or Fintles, 67 Bandotts Lane, Ashbeed, Surrey ETZ1 20g. tel: (01372) 275310, fax: (01372) 279201.

JONES - Philip Alexander Dickenson OBE, aged 61 after a kong liness due to privations as a PAW, with the 287th Field Co. Royal Engineers 18th Div, in Malaya After the war Chief Frees Officer with Export Guarantee Company, Dear husband of Maria, No

JEPHCOTT - Joseph Stanley (Jerry) ISO aged 88 years on February 18th 1997 in Clevedon, Dearly loved behaved of Large and Jerry of Christopher, much forest grantfather of Thomas, Florence and Amelia, Florence and Amelia, Florence and Amelia, Florence and Amelia, Florence and Friends Church, Clevedon, on Monday 24th February 11am, No Howess by request but denations for the League of Friends Clevedon Teacher (Nurses Fund may be sent to Rig. Rawlings Ltd. Fuseral Directors, 5 Woodlands Road, Clevedon, North Somerset, tel: (01275) 873110.

KARAWASH. Perry. The family of much loved Perry Karawanii and his close friends sadly amounce his death on 14th Pebruary 1997. May be used in peace, A memorial services will be held for Perry in Lopdon in May. Please contact a member of the family for things.

KELLY - On Saturday, 18th February 1977, peacefully in hespital, Conna Joy (now Edwards) aged 85 years, beloved wife of the late factories belowed until the peaceful of the late factories belowed and loving mother of Susan, Michael and Jennifer, a devoted and Joving mother, guandmother and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass at Girton College Chapel, Cambridge at 11.30 am on Monday, 24th February, (All empulsis to Messrs Ginns and Guttaridge, Leicester, tel: 0116 281 6117).

KNIGHTS - Eric quietly on 16th February in Bristol. Party loved instead, bristo and grandfather. Frivate cremation followed by Service of Thankspring at Radiand Fark United Reformed Church, Whitehalla has, Beaul, at 2.30 pm on 25th February. Family flowers only.

(AMBERT - Peacefully on 12 February at Woodhayes numing home in Easter, aged nearly 92, Grace Many Lam-bert, elder daughter of 1st Viscount Lambert. Dearly beloved sister, ann, great-aunt and great-great-edit. Engulies Le Roy (01392) 55535.

1997 pencefully at his home Reville. Dering husband of Mergane, dearly leved hither of Stephen and Richard, father-in-law of Jane and Mol press general general general and Richard, laws, Mich fourthea, Sach Janes and Mol press general on Thembergham Service on Friday 28th February at 2.30 pm at Holmbury St Mary Church, Panily Howers only please, memorial donations in memory of Neville for Caucer Care. Enquiries please to (01306) 882266.

LODGE - Six Thomas Lodge
FEG. FEG. FEG. Parameters
in London on 16th Pebruary
1997. Since here dither of
Creenagh and Anton and
hashand of the har Afface
Lorenagh and Anton and
hashand of the har Afface
Lorenagh and Anton and
hashand of the har Afface
Lorenagh and Anton and
Kassington High Street on
Monday 24th February 1997
at 1230 pm and efterwards
at The Bulvedore, Holland
First, Lineannas will take
place purentally on Tuesday
25th February Family
flowers only to Chelsen
Funeral Directors, 2608
Pulham Rand, London 5W10
9EL, ost (0171) 382-0008.

Poter, lete 13th Duke of Conneught's Own Lancers, peacefully on 18th Jennary 1997, forneasy of Lancers, peacefully on 18th Jennary 1997, forneasy of Lancers, peacefully of Lancers, peacefully of Lancers, aged 51 years, Loving hashand of the lete Disma and a lance to the Lancer of Robert. Hartin and Carlette Parent has the piece Council, Claptun-on the-Hill may be sent to W.I. Wright, Funeral Director, Well Lanc, Stow-on-the-Wold, GLS4 1DG.

MANY - Gilbert Palmer peacefully on 15th February aged 94 of Fort Macquarie, 125W. Bushauf for more three 30 years each to Harlon (Molly) died 1962 and Trome, who survives him. Fetter of Carol and Alterets and American and Alterets and grandfather to Ellie izzy, jennifer and Susan. MS - On 14th Pebro

MORRIS - On 14th February 1997 aged 84, Euth, edored wife of Christopher, dearly lead auther of Paul and Sallis, and devoted grandmother. Cremation at Oxford Crematorium on 25th February at 11 am, Family flowers to F.W. Paine, 61 Greyhound Road, Hammerstalth, London WS 8NH. A Service of Thanksgiving at 55 George's Church, Hanover Square, London WI to be sanounced latter.

pescafully on February 17th. Beloved mother of Demela, Marina and Nicholas. Committon will be private and a limited by the service will be accorded. MAWOOM ERROLE - Bether MBE, widow of the late Rejadiar Rawdon height CRE DSO MC Reyel Engineers, on 18th February 1997 in har 93rd year peacefully at Ridgaway Mamor, Oxted Late of the MM House, Shapath, Canadas had these of Elizabeth and Christabel, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral private, Family Howers only.

on 15th February aged 92 years precedully at home with he healty and friends. Funeral Service Monday 14th February Collisers. Cremstorium, American at 3 pm. Flowers and all equities to James Feddis Ltd., tek (01923) 772013.

SMITH - Professor Colin on 16th February after a short illings. Marvellops husband to Ruth and father to Jennie. Becca and Joss. Funeral Service at 4 pm on Monday 24a February at Cambridge Cermatorium. Flowers, or dopations to "Cambridge Consor Research", to Henry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Fart, Cambridge CBA 3EJ. A Memoriel Service will also be held later.

(Mothie) aged 85 of Sherwood, Mortingham, previously of Tunkridge Wells, peacefully in her sleep 17th February 1997.

STONE - Peter of Chariton
Kings, loving husband of
Felicity and pame hatter of
Zillah and Coral, died
pencefully on February 15th.
Service at St Matthew's
Church, Cheltenham on
Friday 21st February at 3pm.
No flowers but domaions in
his memory for Charities to
"These Fend of Chelmison
North Entary Club" ale Sellin
Smith & Co., 74 Frantistry
Ened, Cheltenham GL52 2D. THEFIE - On 11th Rebrussy 1997 pancefully at Maddatone Hespital Marie, Lady Temple, widow of Str Richard Temple Bart 1850. Funeral at Vinters Fark Crematorium Maddatone.

Crematorium, Maidstone, Kent, at 10 am today Wednesday 19th February

WELLS - John Gerard Wells
Capt. CER. DSC. Royal Navy
on February 16th at home
after a short Huses. Head
losed hunband of Di. farba
to Gudstophes and Auton
and grandfather. Private
Cremation. Thanksgiving
Service at St. Mary's Church
Libs at 11.30 am Thurch
Libs at 11.30 am Thurch
Libs at 11.30 am Thurch
Libts at Royal British Legion.

Boyal British Legion.

WESTRY - Peter PRICS.

Feecafully on 16th February
1997 in hospital after an
illness borne with great
courage, Peter, beloved
husband of Jane, loving
Daddy of Amy and Owen,
dearly loved son of Peggie
and Alan, nuch loved
brother of Anne. British-dater British at man Estin
Funeral to be held on
Wednesday 26th February.
Cremation Service 12.15 yas
at Entired Crematonian
followed by a Thankughting
Service at 1 pas at Printy
Church, Gentleputs Row,
Entired Court Plans

For the Court Plan

WHEGH - LET. (Jack) on February 16th peacefully at home. Dearly loved and gently missed by his wife hune, jumes and Stephen, their implies and his name friends. Sarvice of Thanksgiving at St. Peter's Caurch, Budielob Salieston on Tuesday February 25th at 12 noon. No flowers by request, donntions in Heu if desired to Hospiscare clost the fight Street. Budielob Bulletten, Dwon, RF 5th.

Minerum, Deron, AZF 61.

Winckworkth - Archive of
Norman (Archive) of
Donchideork, Enster, passed
away on February 11th
1997. Brother of Douglas
and brother-in-law of
Frances. Fundal Service of
Prances. Fundal Service of
It am followed by interment
there. Floral tributes (f
desired or donations if
preferred for Dunchideock.
Church ofe Le Roy Puncal
Service, 10 Alphington Road,
Enster.

MEMORIAL SERVICES LHEDSAY - Jean Citive.
A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Jean Lindsay, former fellow in Ristory, will be held in the College Chapel at Girton College, Cambridge on Saturday, 1st March at 12 noon. Any enquiries to the Mistrees's Secretary, (01223) 338951.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES ELICT - Brian. A Thunksgiving Service will info piace on Tuesday 25th March 12:30 pm at 5t Thomas Moore Catholic Church, Hartley Wintney and afterwards at E.W. Cricket Cath

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

19th February 1991, in Italy. Er in Arendia ego. With my love as always, Many. ROBERTS - Paul Ambray die 3rd February 1996. In or hearts you will always stratowed and remembers everyday and especiall today your 50th Ritthday four bowleying wife Tichty, dee dad of Adam and Pauls eldest and of Rosemany an Ambray, brother of David Stratog, and Rosemany and Ambray, brother of David Stratog, and Roseman and Ros

BIRTHDAYS HAPPY BRITHDAY, Make it a very happy birthday for someone special ... sumermes ir in the Timent Call 0171 481 1982

WANTED PRE 1940's clothes, lines, loos, lans, patchwork quilts, embroi-casies, sampless, original arti-cles, stawin, tentiles, costema javellery etc 0171 229 9618 ROLEX & CARTIER wholed. High cash prices paid. 0171 495 8992 or visit 51 Perk Lane WI.

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FRENCH OPEN TRINKS
BRITISH GRAND PRIX
WHARLEON DEBENTILES
ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA
CELINE DION
PHIL COLLING
MANIC ST PREACHES
THE BEALTITHE 80YAL OFERA HOUSE PHANTOM, MESS SAROON 0171 323 4480 SPORTS TICKET
SPECIALISTS

County Tipperary.

Mr G.M. Howell and Miss E.J. Hooker The engagement is announced between Gavin, son of Mr and

and Miss A.E. Stockbridge
The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mr and Mrs James Randall, of Windlesham, Surrey, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Raiph Stockbridge, of Shepreth, Cambridgeshire.

and Dr S.L. Commings
The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Wilson, of Mansfield, Nottinghanshire, and Susannah, daughter of Dr John and Dr Geraldine Commings, of Const. Studying Comparison. Great Shelford, Cambridge.

astronomer, Thorun, Poland, 1473; David Garrick, actor-manager. Hereford, 1717: Luigi Boccherini, composer, Luca, Italy, 1743; Adelina Patti, Baroness Cederstron, soprano, Madrid, 1843; Jimmy Durante, actor and comedian, New York City, 1893; Sir Cedric Hardwicks, actor: Lye, Worcestershire, 1893; Merle Oberon, actress, Bombay, 1911; Lee Marvin, actor, New York,

Grierson, documentary film-maker, Bath, 1972. Napoleon Bonaparte established himself as First Consul after

Bread rious took place in Liverpool, The Women's Institute was

lence for Cyprus was

Latest wills

Geoffrey Stephen Hamilton, the horticultural journalist and gar-dening personality, of Exton, Rut-land, left estate valued at £683,485

Eric James Ranby, of Grimble-thorpe, Louth, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,412,219 net. John Christopher Blackett-Ord, of Whitfield, Hexham, Northumberland, left estate valued at

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CAPTAIN JOHN WELLS

Captain John Wells, CBE, DSC, naval historian, died on February l6 aged 81. He was born on September 22, 1915.

ohn Wells's principal historical work. An Illustrated Social History of the Royal Navy 1870-1982. skilfully illuminates the Navy's inner soul, from the bleak, spit-andpolish discipline of the Victorian lower deck to the comradeship and technical ingenuity of the Falklands campaign. Published in 1994 with many rare archive photographs, it made an important and much-needed contribution to the sociology of "Jolly Jack Tar" and his officers from the hammock to the microchip,

John Gerard Wells could count three admirals in his immediate ancestry. His great grandfather, Vice-Admiral Thomas Wells, was a canopy bearer at Nelson's funeral.

Joining Dartmouth in 1929 at the age of 13, he earned a reputation as a sportsman, subsequently boxing and playing rugby for the Navy. During his first tours of sea duty he served in the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert and in the destroyer Impulsive, taking part in protecting British interests during the Spanish Civil War.

in August 1939 he was second-in-command of the destroyer Acheron when it escorted the British Expeditionary-Force to France and then landed troops in Norway. Despite the desperate situation, training of the seed-corn had to go on, and Wells was next selected to specialise in gurmery, joining the Gunnery School at Portsmouth in May 1940.

His course turned out to be more than chalk-and-talk in the classroom. After two weeks the whole class was ordered to proceed to the Dunkirk beaches to organise the evacuation of weary soldiers. When orders came through to retire there were no boats,

so Wells swam off to a minesweeper. A week later, he took command of the small Dutch coaster Pascholl, armed with one Lewis machinegun and the White Ensign, and sailed for St Valery. The aim was to try to embark the 51st (Highland) Division, which had fought its way back from the Saar front - where it had been at the outset of the German Blitzkrieg - more than 200 miles to the Channel coast. It was the Highland Division's fate to pass almost in its entirety into captivity but Wells and Pascholl took off several hundred British and French artillerymen from the village of Veules les Roses, four miles to the east of St Valery. In spite of intense shelling and divebombing, Pascholl except unscathed, and Wells was awarded the



DSC for his gallantry and resource during the evacuations.

His class at the Gunnery School received further practical trition when it was ordered to capture the French battleship Courbet in Portsmouth Dockyard, the French being at that time uncertain as to whom they owed allegiance. Then, during an invasion scare, the class manned one of the defensive Portsmouth forts. Wells then served on the staff of the school until his appointment, in October 1941, as gunnery officer of the light cruiser Phoebe. With her 5.25 inch dualpurpose guns, Phoebe took part in many of the furious actions of the Mediterranean campaign, notably the costly but vital Malta convoy, Operation Pedestal, in August 1942.

Later she was damaged by a torpedo off West Africa and went to America for repairs. On return, Phoebe was engaged in operations to capture the gean islands of Kos and Leros, then played an important role in quelling a Greek naval mutiny in Alexandria.

After nearly three years in action, Wells returned briefly to the Gunnery School and then to the cruiser Swiftsure, which became the first major warship into Hong Kong after VJ-Day. An early task there was to bring relief to more than a thousand women and children interned in Stanley prison.

Wells was the first postwar battery commander of the resuscitated RN Field Gun Competition at Olympia: his subsequent tours took him to the Naval Mission in Athens and to sea in the cruiser Kenva. Promoted commander in 1949, he was posted first to the Admiralty and then in 1953 to the light fleet carrier Warrior as second-in-

Warrior took part in the closing stages of the Korean War and, after evacuating Vietnamese refugees from Haiphong to Saigon, returned home

via South Africa. Wells kept himself fit; one of his frowsty midshipmen has a memory of emerging onto the flight deck in the early tropic dawn to see him. Greek-godlike in singlet and shorts, doubling round and round, 'yet

hardly breaking sweat".
Promoted captain in 1955, Wells went to the Canadian Defence College, the Admiralty and then to command the destroyer Dainty, based in Maha. Two further commands, the gunnery school HMS Excellent and the guided missile destroyer Kent, took him to the top of the captain's list and retirement in 1964, his excellent service being recognised by appointment as CBE.

Joining Highland Tourist Cairngorm Development as a project manager, he supervised the Esmillion construction of the initial Aviemore skiing centre, completed in 1966. He then spent four years with Clarkson Holidays, inspecting the standards of some 200 Mediterranean hotels, then moved to a firm of quantity surveyors for whom he conducted a tourism survey of Sudan and the Blue and White Niles. Then followed management of a Mediterranean barge and container company and, finally, a

London business services enterprise, Now aged 65, he was asked so undertake the writing of his first book, the history of the naval gunnery school on Whale Island in Portsmouth. The resulting book, Whaley - the Story of HMS Excellent 1830-1980, was published in 1980. He was also asked to be the Research Historian for the Preservation Trust that had been set up to preserve Britain's first ironclad warship, the Warrior, which with Victory and Mary Rose, has become one of the great historic warship attractions in the Portsmouth Heritage area.

His second book, a detailed and extensively illustrated copy of Warrior's career and restoration, The Immortal Warrior - Britain's First and Last Battleship, appeared in 1987 and became a prizewinner.

In 1983 he founded the Warrior Assocation, the supporters' club, and had been its chairman since 1985. In August 1995 he was one of a select group of 150 naval veterans who visited the Far East for the 50th anniversary of VJ-Day, leading the remembrance services, parades and marches in Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong.

John Wells played most sports, but he and his wife shared a great love for sailing, both racing and subsequently cruising at home and in the Mediterranean as members of the Royal Cruising

L. Marsland Gander, when

the Greek island of Leros

suffered a terrifying German

air bombardment. The two

men survived in appailing

conditions for several days in

bombed-out buildings before

being rescued at the last

minute by a British destroyer.

Crichton was mentioned in

Perhaps as a result of this

experience Crichton decided at

the end of the war that

journalism was a young man's

profession, and he opted for

the Foreign Office as a more

suitable career for a family

man. He served his first post

in Belgrade, but it was in

Alexandria that his career

almost ended with an attack of

polio in 1956. He was flown

out on a South African aircraft

Monaco.

dispatches for this episode.

He is survived by his wife Diana whom he married in 1947, and their

MARJORIE REYNOLDS

Marjorie Reynolds American screen actres died on February I aged 75. She was born on August 12, 1921.

MAKING her screen debut as a toddler, Marjorie Reynolds was one of the few child actresses to make a relatively painless transition to adult roles. Of the many films she made, it was Holiday Inn (1942) which really impressed her charms upon the Amencan public, and particularly that sentimental scene in which a pipe-smoking Bing Crosby croons White Christmas to her over the top of a grand piano.

Starring Fred Astaire as well as Crosby. Holiday Inn was made in 1942, when America had just entered the war. Paramount, uncertain of the war's effect on the box office (in fact audience numbers greatly increased), agreed to make the film only if the salaries involved for the film's two stars were offset by economies made on the little-known leading lady, Marjorie Reynolds. The plot was inconsequential. It was the ease with which Reynolds, Astaire and Crosby sang, danced and ro-manced their way through the all-new living Berlin score that made it big box office.

Mariorie Goodspeed, as she began her life, was born in Buhl, Idaho, and moved to Los Angeles with the family when she was still a haby. In 1923 she made her screen debut in the silent film Soaramouche. Educated at the Los Angeles High School, she carried on making films. As an ingenue she was courted by a variety of cowboy stars - Tex Ritter, Buck Jones — and almos frightened to death in several Boris Karloff melodramas.

Billed first as Goodspeed then as Mariorie Moore, she became Marjorie Reynolds only in 1936 when she married became a familiar face in American living rooms. a production assistant named During her starring years, Reynolds had wisely invested Jack Reynolds. At the same time she dyed her brown hair her capital in an apartment blonde and started landing block in Beverly Hills. In better roles, particularly in retirement, no longer blonde (she reverted to brown hair

Paramount productions. After Holiday Inn had made her a favourite with the public, she was cast opposite Ray Milland in the taut Fritz Lang thriller Ministry of Fear (1944). Reynolds played the sister of a Nazi spy who, in a memorably pitch-black scene, shoots her prother dead. Her comic gifts were seen to

advantage in bedroom farces and musicals. Then, after several more good years, her career went flat in the late 1940s, and she had largely drifted back to B-movies by the time a popular television comedy, The Life of Riley, was launched. Playing Peg Riley from 1953 to 1958, Reynolds

with an Indira Gandhi streak) she still looked trim, thanks to an enthusiasm for golf, and fit to face the cameras. Occasionally she did face them, playing grandmothers in television commercials. But with Holiday Inn being reshown on

television as often as it is, she

remained fixed in most peo-

ple's memories as an unwa-

veringly fresh-faced, light-

looted twenty-year-old. Her first marriage, by which she had one daughter who survives her, ended in divorce. Her second, lasting 32 years, was to a film editor named John Haffen, who died



PROFESSOR VERNON JOYCE

Vernon Joyce, entomologist and Professor of Biocommunics at Cranfield University, died on January 14 aged 82. He was born on May 29, 1914.

VERNON JOYCE was an outstanding scientist with a rare ability to understand and bring together different scien-tific disciplines to tackle the problems of insect control and

He was one of the first to appreciate the importance of understanding the whole ecosystem to ensure that methods of control were applied in an efficient and environmentally friendly way. This led him to make important contributions to both the theory and early application of what became known as integrated pest management, a key factor in the security of economically important crops and food supply, particularly in under-

Vernon Joyce was born in Camberwell, south London. and won a scholarship to Bedford School, which he attended from 1924 to 1932 From there he moved to Bangor University. After a brief spell as a

developed countries.

and the Middle East.

by special permission of Presiresearch entomologist, he ioined the Territorial Army on dent Nasser. He later served in La Paz. the outbreak of war as a Santiago, and Miami. He was motorcycle dispatch rider and appointed LVO in 1968. His served in France, Palestine, last posting was as Consul General in Nice and Her Egypt and the Western Desert. In the later years of the Majesty's Representative in war he was relieved from active service to investigate the Crichton was as widely read locust situation, under a proas he was travelled, with a gramme which had been set up to support food supply for the allied troops and local population in North Africa sharp intelligence and selfdepreciating sense of humour. He was a lifelong supporter of

the underdog, and of Reading Football Club. After the war, he was ap-Crichton's first wife, Joan pointed Government Entoalways known as Susie). mologist, and then Director of whom he married in 1941, was Agricultural Research in Sukilled in 1992 in a car crash in dan. His major responsibil which Crichton's sister also ities were the protection of died. Two years later he crops, particularly cotton, married Betty. He is survived against insect infestation, and by her and by a daughter and the organisation and execua son of his first marriage. tion of research into the control of the desert locust which was causing devastation across Sudan and beyond; it was in the latter field that he first gained worldwide recog-

In 1957 he was appointed

deputy director, and later director of the Desert Locust Survey, under the East African High Commission, with its headquarters in Kenya. He remained as director when, in

1962, this organisation became the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa, established by international convention between the countries of Eastern Africa and based in Ethiopia, and he



held this position until 1967. He served on a number of panels of experts organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. He was a delegate at many FAO meetings, representing at various times the Governments of Kenya, Suuan, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and the UK.

The strategy for desert locust control developed by Joyce and his colleagues during this period led to the elimination of economically significant locust populations from Eastern Africa by 1962 and made an important contribution to the following recession of the plague which had seasonally affected much of Africa for generations.

In 1967 Joyce was invited to join the Swiss pharmaceutical and agrochemical company

CIBA, later CIBA-Geigy, to develop his work on aviation "search and strike" techniques for the control of insect pests. Large-scale projects were undertaken in Bangladesh, Indonesia. Sudan, Canada and the United Kingdom for the control of a wide variety of pests. In 1972 Joyce founded the Agricultural Aviation Research Unit (AARU) at the ogy (now Cranfield Univer-sity), initially funded. Cranfield Institute of Technol-Geigy and later incorporated into the university as the International Centre for the Application of Pesticides, where he was appointed Professor of Bio-aeronautics.

During this time he formed fruitful collaborations with meteorologists, physicists and biologists to gain a more detailed knowledge of the flight potential and behaviour of insects and hence a greater understanding of their dispersal patterns that could provide new opportunities for the control of insect populations. He also recognised the potential of ground and airborne radar to observe locusts and other insects in flight, and played an important role in promoting the emerging discipline of radar entomology as the key to a better understanding of insect

He retired from Cranfield in 1981 to live in Berriew, Powys. For many years he remained active in the scientific community, participating in courses at Cranfield and being much in demand to attend and lecture at international conferences. He was a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society. which he served as vicepresident from 1980 to 1982, and a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Royal Meteorological Society and the Association of Applied Biologists.

His younger daughter died in 1992, but he is survived by his wife Harriet, whom he

SUFFRAGIST ASSAULT ON

A PEER. LORD WEARDALE MISTAKEN FOR MR. ASQUITH.

A violent attack was made on Lord Weardale at Euston Station just before 10 o'clock yesterday morning. His assailant was a young woman armed with a dog-whip, who apparently mistook him for the Prime Minister, Lord Weardale, who was accompanied by Lady Weardale, was about to enter the special train which was to convey the guests to Althorp Park for the wedding of Lady Delia Spencer, Lord Spencer's daughter. He was struck violently on the head from behind, the blows causing him to stumble and fall. The woman, who refused her name, was later charged at the Police Court, and remanded. Lord Weardale had just alighted from his motor-car and was walking towards the train

when the young woman rushed at him. The first blow knocked his bat off, and further blows caused him to full. The suffragist was immediately seized by members of the London and North-Western Railway Police. Later, before Mr. Bros. at Clerkenwell

Police Court. Lord Weardale's assailant was charged. She still declined to give her name and intimated that she wished to say nothing. Lord Weardale said that he was struck on

ON THIS DAY

February 19, 1914

Lord Weardale, bound for a big wedding at Althorp Park, was attacked at Euston Station by a suffragist, who, apparently having mistaken him for H.H. Asquith, the Prime Minister, set about him with a dog whip.

the top of the head very violently. He heard nothing said and did not see who was striking him. He was assailed from behind. On being helped up he found the defendant held by a railway official. She was a stranger to him. The whip, a perfectly new one, was handed to him by the officer. "I might add." Lord Weardale concluded, "that I, with Lord Curzon, am a joint president of the Anti-Suffragist Society".

Mr. Bros (to the delendant). - Would you like to ask the witness any questions? The defendant - I don't wish to speak.

Detective Johnson, of the Railway Police, said he saw Lord Weardale alight from a

motor-car and walk towards the train. The defendant slashed at him with the whip. Lord Weardale stumbled and he assisted him. He then arrested the woman. She said, "I meant to give him a good thrashing. You don't know what he has done for us".

The prisoner was remanded. The case was again mentioned in the afternoon when Mr. Marshall, a solicitor, stated that he appeared on behalf of the defendant's friends. He was prepared to give her name and address, and also an explanation as to why the assault was committed. This lady, holding very strong views about the reament of women in prison, mistook Lord Weardale for Mr. Asquith, whom she considered was responsible for that treatment, and had thereupon assaulted him. At the proper time he would be instructed to put forward an apology for what she had done. He asked whether on the name and address being given the magistrate would grant bail. Mr. Bros. - I don't propose to grant bail. The act seemed the act of a lunanc. I have remanded her to inquire into the state of her

Mr Marshall. - Would you like her name und address? Mr. Bros. - I don't want to know that; I

only want to know if she is insane.

DAVID CRICHTON

David Crichton died on January 22 aged 82. He was born on July 31, 1914.

DAVID CRICHTON'S first choice of career, as a journalist, was brought to a halt by the outbreak of the Second World War, his second, as a diplomat, was ruined by polio,

him. Yet in the course of his life he was to travel the world,

world trip which took him across Siberia by train and down the Yangtse by boat. He then joined the Reading Evening Post as a reporter and worked in London, Manchester and Paris for The Daily Telegraph, Daily Sketch and the Manchester Guardian.

was delayed in 1941 when he

At the outbreak of war he Western Desert.

from Alexandria to Santiago, from Belgrade to La Paz. David George Crichton was the eldest of five children of Sir George Crichton, middle son of the Earl of Erne. David Crichton was heir to the present earl for many years: Educated at Eton, he decidjoined the Derbyshire Yeowhich he caught at the height MUSICAL MIDWEEK INSTRUMENTS RENDEZVOUS

of the Suez crisis in Alexandria ed on leaving school to set off manry but his departure with working with an old friend and which almost crippled on an ambitious round-the the regiment for North Africa from The Daily Telegraph,

caught pneumonia. As a result he was separated from his regiment, but he followed via the Cape on the Queen Mary and soon found his journalistic skills in demand when he was made a public relations officer for the Army in the In 1942 he found himself

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married in 1948, and by a daughter and son.

Open up, in the name of the licence fee

governors' seminar the morning after the Campaign for Freedom of Information awards. My head was throbbing with cases of the national fondness for pretending that something is open when it is really shut. Like the BBC's mind on the digital future. We had been invited - assorted people with an interest in broadcasting, with the correct

sprinkling of ethnic dress and regional

representation — to participate in an exercise

in "accountability". The BBC was to explain its proposals and then we could . . . er. what? A 12-year-old could have spotted the loopholes in the BBC's careful wording. We were there because the BBC is obliged "to listen to the public's views". "The views submitted will help to influence our final decision." Comments are sought on "the

content, mixture and range of services" the BBC is proposing. Just how, for example, can its new digital

24-hour news service be made "distinctive"? Nothing about "whether", in other words; only about "how". Even as we met the consultation document outlining the channels was being printed. That was just as well because devastating criticism then flew from all sides to say that the BBC

is on the wrong track. BBC management were accused of starving present_pro-

grammes, such as Question Time, to pour resources into an uncer-tain and unknowable future. They **MADDOX** were told that digital television as a common form of viewing may be 20 years off and that the desire for multichannel choice, apart from sport and movie channels, is unproven. They were advised to concentrate on problems that affect the whole audience now: the drift of sport away from the BBC, the coming threat to its audiences of the new terrestrial Channel 5, the apparent inability

to find anybody to head BBC drama...
I cannot fault the BBC's wish to develop new digital services - so long as this is done slowly. It seems quite right to work on new channels, to be available free to any licencefee payer who may in future wish to invest in the extra equipment needed to receive them. Wider screens, clearer pictures, a round-theclock news channel and add-on extras recipes, lessons, repeat showings of programmes shown on BBC! and BBC2: all may be very nice to have.

Where I part company with the plans sorry, the *proposed* plans — is the point where they assume that the BBC must develop new thematic, commercial channels for the world market. I don't like these, for two reasons. They spoil the BBC's reputation as a non-commercial service. And they appear to be subsidised by the money we, the licence payers, have contributed in compulsory fees — a financial cushion that

enjoy. The BBC insists that these commercial channels, such as those on the Continent paid for by subscription or advertising, cost the licence-fee payer absolutely nothing: It swears that, far from being cross-subsidised by the licence fee, these channels pay the domestic BBC the full market rate for any programmes they take. It declares that the accounting procedures used make the prices paid clear and transparent.

Transparent to whom? Only to the BBC's hired accountants. They report their find-ings to the governors. And will the figures be published? "We will publish what it is appropriate to publish" is the reply.

But wait, How can any programme made or commissioned by the domestic BBC be anything other than subsidised by the vast resources accumulated by the ELS billion a year received in licence fees? What is worse, the BBC's frenzied pursuit of commercial ventures obscures the plain truth

that such revenue will never amount to anything more than pin money for the BBC. It will never replace, or even help to lower, the licence fee. And it observes the fee's virtue as the source of the respect for what is now called the BBC's "brand name".

Fair play would seem to require that the BBC's accounting must DOX

be not only open but seen to be open. A good start would be to reveal what it pays Camelot for televising the National Lottery.

The public would like to know. Many think

that Camelot should pay the BBC for this free publicity. The BBC says its lips are sealed by "commercial confidentiality". A familiar excuse, as Sir Richard Scott noted last week, used within government and quasi-governmental bodies, for keeping secret information that it is in the public

hat lies hidden under the BBC's Camelot cloak? My guess is shame. The BBC forks out this secret sum for the right to broadcast a programme that has nothing distinctive about it except the capacity to snare an easy 12 or more million viewers. In its defence, the BBC points out that the lottery contract goes out to competitive tender and that next time round (maybe this autumn: the length of the existing contract is another secret) the BBC could be disadvantaged by letting its competitors know the amount of its bid.

But the size of the ITV franchise bids is made public once the winners are declared. Why shouldn't the BBC gamble, since the money comes out of our pockets? If we had a Freedom of Information Act, we might be able to find out. Until such day, all we can do is ask the BBC not to invite suggestions on

Marr goes for Mail features

م كذا من رلامهل

IN HIS latest quest for success at The Independent, the paper's Editor, Andrew Marr, is raiding the Daily Mail's features department. The Editor has hired Deborah Ross, one of the paper's highest-paid feature writers, and Sam Taylor, a commissioning edi-

This change of attitude is interesting. When Marr first took the Editor's chair last year, he was determined to dispense with the traditional concept of leading on hard-news stories and started devoting his front page to reviews of art exhibitions and comment pieces while decrying the Mail for "dirty raincoat journalism". The Mail's recent rise in circulation could have changed his mind.

Family planning

THE producers of Channel 5's soap, Family Affairs, were taking no chances when cast-ing the character of Bradley, the pet cat who belongs to the Harts, the programme's central family. Just in case the real-life moggie who plays



Marr. Mail-chasing

Bradley should ever get flat-tened by a bus, the directors plumped for an animal that was black, with no distinguishing features. "We bad to make sure he was totally replaceable," an insider says. In a separate development, Channel S, which has insisted

that its soap will eschew the kind of lesbian kiss, body-under-the-patio sensationalism common in other mainstream soaps, has let slip that one of the principal characters will be killed off within four weeks of launch. A C5 insider says: "It is a tragic death, but it is organic to the plot." So that's all right, then.

Crossing Chryss

THE BBC producer Peter Swain had a shock in Ireland while shooting Branded, a documentary series. Swain was filming Tony O'Reilly, newspaper magnate, and his wife, Chryss, as they hosted a swanky event at Leopards town; guests included Lord Callagran of Cardiff and Jean Kennedy-Smith. O'Reilly agreed to be filmed with his horse, Woodhorough, before it took part in the big event of the day, the Phoenix Stakes. The shoot was abruptly terminated by his wife, however, who claimed that filming a horse before a race brings bad luck. 'As it happened, Wood-

borough did not win, and as Swain dashed to the winner's enclosure he bumped into an irate Mrs O, who pointed an aggressive finger and snarled. You, it's all your fault." Her husband gave an embarrassed look skywards.

· Rumours swirl around Fleet Street about the destiny of Ian Monk, the former deputy editor of The Express, who was last week spotted having a cosy chat with the power-hungry Bridget Rowe, the managing director of The People and the Sunday Mirrot, who last week assumed editorial control of the latter after squeezing out Amanda Platell, the acting Editor.



Amanda de Cadenet: listed

World women IT WAS only a matter of time.

before September Films, producers of the ITV series Hollywood Women, Hollywood Men, Hollywood etc., turned their attentions to Blighty. The company has won a commission to make UK Women, a four-part prime-time series. Made by the same team behind the controversial Holgramme promises to include interviews with an eclectic mix

of female celebrities and "ordithought to include everyone

from Joan Bakewell and Amanda de Cadenet, to Dame Barbara Cartland, Jemima Khan (née Goldsmith), Paula Yates and Nicola Horlick.

• LORD HOLLICK, the socialist millionaire and chief executive of United News and Media, boosted his not inconsiderable fortune last week after England's 1-0 defeat at Wembley. Hollick, who attended the game as a guest of Greg Dyke, Pearson TV's footy-mad boss, won a sweepstake held by the 12 guests at the table. He pocketed a princely E22.

Ouite contrary

MAIRE Geoghegan-Quinn, the first woman minister in Irish history, quit politics in a fury over media intrusion in her family life. She claimed that press and broadcast coverage of her son's expulsion from his West of Ireland boarding school was the final straw. A week later, however, she emerged in the employ of ... er, the media.

Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn is to write a weekly political column for The Irish Times and for two weeks will host one of Ireland's most successful phone in radio pro-grammes. RTE's Liveline is renary women". The producers' nowned for the niggling wish-list of interviewees is personal questions it asks its

Burkitt: thrashing things out

Under an influence

THE advertising industry is staging a timely political debate at the House of Commons on March 24 at which the potentially alarming motion "Advertis-ing is more influential than politics" will be discussed.

The debate will be thrashed out Stephen Carter, managing director of J Walter Thompson, and Hugh Burkitt, chairman of Court Burkitt & Co - and two MPs, Peter Bottomley and Tony Banks, both of whom have yet to confirm, in front of a gallery of 100 advertisers, agency representatives. MPs and civil servants.

Mr Carter, who will be speaking for the motion, says: "My opinion is that advertising is more influential, which is obviously a sad reflection on politics today," while Mr Burkitt says: "Advertising reflects society rather than shapes it. I like to think I have helped

to sell a few boxes of things, but I haven't affected society at all."

ADLAND has a starring role in a weekend of TV programmes dedicated to stress in the workplace. EBN, the cable and satellite channel, has homed in on the industry for its Insider's Guide to Business slot next Saturday.

The agency under scrutiny is Bates Dorland, where creative executives evidently enjoy regular games of table tennis to clear their minds. They can de stress" in the "Egg", a room full of all forms of diverting stimulants, from video games to CDs.

Despite the creative director's assertions that advertising is "a very stressful business" where "9-5 means 9pm to 5am", the unfortunate abiding mem-

ory from the programme is of an art director enjoying a game of table tennis and admitting. "All my mates think I work in a playground." Marie 1

A QUESTION mark was placed over the future of small agency brands this week when the Cordiant-owned K Advertising was merged with its sister shop, Saatchi & Saatchi. The agency last year notched up billings of only 630 million, placing it outside the top 30 ranking of advertising companies. The merger means that five of K's 39 employees are made redundant, along

with one Saatchi executive. It also means that Saatchi inherity instant dient clashes between its own Norwich Union and Castlemaine XXXX business and K3 Commercial Union and Carisberg accounts.

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Why we must save the Gang On Four



Under threat? Today presenters, from the left, James Naughtle, Anna Ford, John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor. The programme faces a review

Michael Gove champions the cause of BBC Radio 4's embattled Today programme

ohn Humphrys should beware the dangers of becoming forever Young. Next week, the Today presenter will exchange the cockpit of Studio 4A for the easy chair of the JY prog. While Jimmy Young is away, Humphrys will juggle the Matt Monro LPs, recipes and interviews on Radio 2's midmorning show.

The newsman's holiday should present no problem for an accomplished broadcaster who combines ubiquity with authority. But the skill with which Humphrys will undoubtedly fill Young's slippers could, unwittingly, strengthen : the hand of those anxious to. reform the shows on which Humphrys's reputation rests.

The BBC has announced its intention to review its news and current affairs output after the election and, as with strained, however, sions have been reached and leaked well before the process. has begun. The makers of Newsright and Today have been singled out, like intellectuals in the Cultural. Revolution, as ripe for reeducation.

The names of Humphrys and James Naughtie have been whispered in connection with complaints about "verbal punch-ups" and "alienating arguments". Comparisons with the more "accessible" approach to news of Radio 5 Live have been made inside the corporation by the Red Guards. Too practised a display on Radio 2 by Humphrys might see the same anonymous managers suggest that he had Today, less tied to the "Westminster agenda".

I do not have access to the market research, which the BBC's managers take as their authority for contemplating change, but I do have something denied to most of those who presume to dictate Today's future - recent experiprogramme

For years now, BBC managers have tried to free Today from the tyranny of the ten-

vous with Michael

Heseltine". Most Its rivals editors . I . knew would happily have broadened should the programme's set their range of interviewees. They were consights imagination but by a commitment to leader professionalism.

Whatever the attractions of straying away from SWI, it would its breakfast show is one of have been a betrayal of the audience to neglect the issues that mattered and the individusis who influenced them. This Monday morning it was the censure debate on Douglas. Hogg which dominated the front page of serious newspapers and it was on Today that Mr Hogg mounted his defence. That is what the audi-

and the time had come for new voices to introduce a "fresher" treats them like adults and assumes they are intelligent enought to follow an argument and serious enough to want to.

The BBC management, though, does not want only to attract more men than anyone else, it wants youth. An anonymous spokesman, presenting a justification for the review, told The Daily Telegraph: We have launched Radio 5 Live to appeal to that market young males] more, but we still feel we are missing out on

> and on the Cl, C2 Comparisons with Radio 5 Live are instructive, but perhaps not in a way which is congenial to those who Want to meet a nonand make an unnecessary change.

Even though it was marketed as. "Radio Bloke" and many excellent programmes, Radio 5 Live is nowhere near as successful as Today; not just in attracting ministers who wish to sound off but also those who are off to the Ministry of Sound.

Last autumn, before Radio 5 Live benefited from the arrival of the former Today Editor Roger Mosey, its breakfast show had an average audience Today, during the same perteners between 7.10 and 8.

ers of Today. Those who undermine them do democ-Radio 5 Live's audience than is normal for the BBC is certaindrawn from the nonracy a disservice. tropolitan, under-45 pool in

which Today is now being en-

couraged to fish. But mixing

relatives and absolutes is as

dangerous as mixing Absoluts

Given that Today has 600

per cent of Radio 5 Live's

audience at breakfast means

that even though a smaller

proportion of Today's audi-

ence is young and provincial, in absolute terms it still

reaches fair more "blokes" than the station set up for

them. The average twentyish plasterer in Redditch, in so far

as he exists, actually prefers. Jim Naughtie to the laddish

alternative a wrist-twist away.

market research deployed by

the BBC's briefers may be

used to suggest that "audi-ences, shrink from the

argumentative approach" of

Naughtie and Humphrys, but

the listeners I encountered on

the road for Today took quite

Humphrys and Naughtie are heroes. If anything, they

weren't aggressive enough for the Today audience. Of course,

the public were occasionally

exasperated by what they heard. It was, however, the

equivocation of politicians

who took refuge in statistics even flimsier than broadcast

marioet research which en-

raged listeners, not attempts

the opposite view.

it is not surprising why. The

and vermouth.

They also underestimate an audience that knows power is wielded in Westminster and wants to see it examined there, instead of having politics viewed through the wrong end of the telescope in the name of provincial correctness.

Rather than Today imitating new blokes on the block, its rivals should set their sights on the market leader. In appointing Roger Mosey to run Radio 5 Live, the BBC has tacitly admitted as much. Instead of embracing a Cultural Revolution, the BBC should learn from Humphrys, Naughtie, MacGregor and Ford - the Gang on 4.

Michael Gave was a reporter on the Today programme from July TO Lanuary 1936

Mail campaign mirrors Foot case

Bouquets and brickbats for Dacre crusade

There is no point starting a contro-versial newspaper campaign unless it is pursued with determination and vigour. That is exactly what Paul Dacre, Editor of the Daily Mail, has been doing since he published a front page last Friday - as memorable as The Guardian's A Liar and a Cheat of last year - accusing five men of being "Murderers". Let them sue us if we are wrong, he declared

Justice had been effectively neutered after the munder of Stephen Lawrence, the Mail declared next day. The police were frustrated, the courts helpless, and a gang of evil and moronic thugs had got away with murder. A special page of letters yesterday showed that Dacre's campaign had won

overwhelming support from his readers.
His campaign has already won powerful critics. Lord Donaldson of Lymington, the former Master of the Rolls, accused the Mail of contempt of court.

The Times argued that the place of newspapers was in the press gallery, not as advocates for the prosecution. Andrew Marr, Editor of The Independent, admitted that his first reaction had been an admiring gasp but said that newspapers were not juries, nor were editors judges. The Independent on Sunday

But there has also PAPER ROUND been support for Dacre from the Left Brian MacArthur and the Right. It was time to cheer when the Mail was ready to have a go at

racists, said The Guardian. Yes, the Mail had abused its power and wealth, argued Janet Daley, the Daily Telegraph's columnist, but thousands of black people would now see Britain as a fairer and more decent place.
"Absolutely excellent," was also the reac-

tion of Paul Foot, Britain's most eminent investigative journalist. Foot, usually an instinctive opponent of Dacre, described his "gutsy performance" as a "source of wonderment". An editor who starts a controversial campaign, however thick his hide, can feel lonely, exposed and vulnerable. Yet the success of one of Foot's investigations many years ago ought to be a source of comfort to

Foot was on the then Daily Mirror in 1981 when Florence Siddons arrived to see him. Her granddaughter Lynn, aged 17, had been stabbed to death three years carlier. A 14year-old boy, Fitzroy Brookes, who had been walking with her when she was attacked. had been charged but acquitted because it had become obvious in court that the real murderer was the boy's stepfather, Michael Subsequently, Brookes's wife had made a

statement to lawyers acting for the Siddons family about his habit of sticking knives into women for enjoyment. Derbyshire police

refused to reopen the inquiry. So Mrs Siddons was sent to Foot by Philip Whitehead, the local Labour MP. After hearing her story. Foot explained that the obvious solution - to print the case against Brookes and name him as a child murderer - seemed impossible because of the libel

"But it's the truth. Mr Foot," she said. "This man murdered Lynn and he's getting away with it."

Foot worked on the evidence for months and finally hattered the Mirror's lawyer and then - after being asked if he was trying to ruin the paper for ever - Tony Miles, the Mirror's chairman, into submission.

On April 8, 1981, under the headline "Who

Killed Lynn Siddons?", the Mirror published Foot's answer, which said effectively that the guilty man was Michael Brookes.

As Fool wrote later in The Independent. nothing happened. There was no libel action, no action from Derbyshire police. But Mrs Siddons was determined to get justice for her granddaughter. Again and again she went to see Foot, who sustained his campaign for years — but it was 15 years before she achieved her victory.

Only last year was Brookes finally convicted of murder and jailed for life.

The moral for Dacre is that he may be in for a long fight which will be won only by a sustained campaign. As Har-The Sunday Times during the thalidomide campaign, used to say, readers notice a

campaign only when journalists are bored with it. Foot is familiar with the abuse — the gutter press denying five men a fair trial that Dacre will meet. It is difficult, he admits, to set firm principles in such cases. Journalists are usually trying to get people out of prison, not to put them inside. Yet when the courts don't convict guilty people, the press surely has the right to intervene.



Out on a limb: the Mail and Mirror

by the interviewer to get to the ence has come to expect. Today's audience is not at any one time of 300,000. point. Given the failure of so many of our legislators propshort of choices. No segment of erly to hold the executive to iod, attracted two million listhe radio market is as fiercely contested as breakfast. Yet six account that responsibility ingreater proportion of creasingly falls on the presentmillion continue to choose

a longstanding joke The show was called *The Perfect*Fool and on February 19, 1922, it
may well have seemed a perfectly foolish idea. But New York radio station WJZ was making broadcasting history when it used a live studio audience for the first time. Since that broadcast - 75 years this week - radio and television shows throughout the world have come to rely heavily on the unpaid services of

members of the public. initially, the BBC was slow to follow the American station's example. In Britain, serious speakers and musicians preferred to commune with the microphone in solitary splendour, declaring that they would be embarrassed by a lot of outsiders sitting and gawping at them. However, unserious performers such

as comedians and variety acts. who were used to playing to the gallery felt inhibited with only a microphone and took to bringing their friends into the recording studios.

Eventually, the BBC decided to make the use of studio audiences official. On May 7, 1924, it invited listeners to identify two voices - an announcer and performer - and a musical item. The winners were invited to make up the first audience in a British recording studio. Broadcast-

House contained one studio that could squeeze in 45 people, while another held 30. A waiting list soon built up.

Unlike present television and radio programmes, there was no warm-up man to encourage the audience to laugh and joke before the show began. Instead, a stage manager would stroll into the studio five minutes before the start and advise

The ubiquitous studio audience is 75 years old, says Jonathan Sale

TV and radio celebrate

the audience to applaud only when they thought performances deserved it. He also warned them not to be alarmed by the red light over the studio door. Despite this gloomy presence in 1928, listeners complained that prolonged laughter from studio audiences prevented listeners from hearing the jokes. As a result, the BBC decided to halve audience numbers to keep the noise down.

They

seemed

to think

they were

coming to a

real circus'

The BBC's primitive television service managed a world first on Christmas Eve 1936 when an audience was assembled for a variety show called Harry Pringle's Old Veterans. Since then the use of live audiences for television shows has become a BBC tradition. "We do 600 shows at Television Centre," says the BBC spokeswoman Sian Healey, and about 200,000

inglorious milestone of media history, the Hank McCune Show on America's NBC television became the first programme to exchange a real audience for canned laughter. Canned laughter became widely used by American comedy shows: however, it consistently failed to catch on in

Terry Jones, of Monty Python's Flying

people come in each year." Yet in 1949, studio audiences nearly became extinct. In an

The audience tells you if something is funny or not. We would edit the show

according to the audience reaction."

The biggest problem for the BBC is ensuring that the people are on the right wavelength, which was not the case in the first Python show: "They were all old people who seemed to think they were coming to see a real circus. After that we appealed to the BBC ticket distributors to provide us with a decent audience."

When launching a new show today, Audience Services is more careful. For a stand-up comedy series, they reach fans by using the mailing lists of cornedy clubs. Gathering fans for established shows such as Noel's House Party and Top of the Pops is more straightforward as they have

The BBC Radio Ticket Unit advertises in Time Out or takes names from a vast waiting list, depending on the kind of show it is recruiting for.

One of the BBC's most important studio audiences is used for Question Time. To obtain a balanced auditorium, the programme organisers ask for political inclinations in advance and, in the studio. make the audience watch a selection of bulletins so that they are fully acquaimed with the week's news before they pose questions to the panel.

Despite the BBCs precautions, live audiences remain as unpredictable now as they were 75 years ago. Sometimes they laugh more during a retake than they did when hearing the joke for the first time. Sometimes they don't laugh at all. Sometimes, as happened to Bernard Levin in That Was The Week That Was, they even try to hit the presenter - an opportunity denied to those of us who stay

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

Exclusive screenings of The Crucible

eaders of The Times have the chance to cenjoy an exclusive preview screening of The Crucible, with Academy Award winner Daniel Day-Lewis, Winona Ryder and

Author Arthur Miller wrote the screenplay for The Crucible, adapting his stage play about a group of teenage girls accused of witchcraft in Salem in 1692. The film, directed by Nicholas Hytner (director of The Madness of King George) is a drama about collective evil and personal guilt.

SHOWCASE (6.30-7pm): Birmingham: Erdington; Bristol: Avon Meads; Coventry: Cross Point; Glasgot Showcase Leisure Park, Bargeddie; Leeds: Batley; Liverpook Norris Green; Manchester: Belle Vue; Nottingham: Lenton; Peterborough: Boongale; Reading: Winnersh; Stockhor: Teesside Lukurs Park; Walsall: Bertiey Mill Way. WARNER (6-6,30pm); Actor: Royal Leisure Cinema: Cambridge: Grafton Centre; Creydon: Lathams Way; Finishley: Great North Leisure Park, Harrow: St Catorges Shopping & Leisure Centre. OBSON (6-6,30pm): London: 40 Leicester Square. *UCI (6.30-7pm -- Please collect your two free fickets for UCI cinemas after 1 pm on Friday, February 21): Militon Keynes: UCI 10, The Point, 602

Midsummer Boulevard; Shettlekt: UCi 10, Crystal Peals Shopping Centre; Dudley: UCI 10, Merryhill Centre; Derby: UCI 10, Meteor Centre; West Thereof: UCI 10, Lakeside Retail Paric Swanser: UCI 10, Quay Parade, Parc Tawe; Poole: UCI 10, Tower Park, Presion: UCI 10, Riversway, Ashton on Ribble: Bracknett: UCI 10, The Point, Skimped Hill Lane, Lee Valley: UCI 12, Picketts Lock, Edmonton.



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THE **CRUCIBLE TICKETS OFFER** TOKEN 3

CHANGING TIMES

ا هكذا من رلامل

NEWS TO

Fears over insurance gene tests

People applying for life insurance are to be required to disclose if they have taken genetic tests to predict whether they are at risk of inherited disease.

The ruling yesterday by the British Association of Insurers which will apply to all life cover including term assurance, endowments and personal pensions - is likely to mean higher premiums or even a refusal of cover for some people, even though they may be in good health when they apply. Doctors immediately expressed fears that people would be deterred from seeking tests that might save their lives _____ Page I

Prostitute bribe taxman guilty

An unprecedented Inland Revenue anti-corruption operation is still under way after a senior investigator was convicted

Pledge to gays

Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, will commit Labour to repealing Conservative legislation, seen as an attack on homosexual rights, which bans local authorities from portraying homosexuality in a positive

Gun law revolt

The Government suffered its worst backbench revolt of the present Parliament as more than 90 Tory MPs voted against a key part of its gun legislation. Page 1 Cannabis denial

Philip Tufnell described as "ridiculous" allegations that he smoked cannabis on the eve of England's

third Test victory Pages 3, 46, 48 '£100,000 murder' A husband brutally murdered his wife for her £100,000 life insurance so he could enjoy the good life with his young mistress.

Rich celebrate

court was told.

Asian millionaires together worth more than £4 billion gathered to celebrate the publication of a list of the 100 richest among Page 4

Murder fears

The foster parents of the murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins were so concerned about a prowier near their house in the weeks before the killing that they had decided to movePage 6

Rabies law trauma

A cat-loving couple's dream of moving to Britain from America was shattered because France gives no warning to travellers about Britain's strict anti-rables

Wife hits back

The wife of a former British policeman who was appointed to clean up Australia's most corrupt force, made a public show of support for her embattled

Lucky Starr

Kenneth Starr, once seen by the White House as a demon sent to torment President Clinton, was dubbed "Clinton's lucky Starr" after deciding to step down as special prosecutor for the Whitewater affair..... Page 13

Havana celebration

Fidel Castro has invited some of Hollywood's biggest stars to Havana to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Cohiba, the cigar he made famous Page 13

Nigeria sanctions

The prospect of Commonwealth sanctions against Nigeria receded after a ministerial group called for further evidence from human rights activists

Saintly Tear

Talks began on making Nicholas II. the last Tsar, a saint in a dramatic reversal of 70 years of Soviet ideology ...

Boy, seven, eats his way out of jam

Craig Flatman, seven, who ate nothing but jam sandwiches for three years, has managed to beat his addiction after to eat anything but strawberry or raspberry jam with margarine on two slices of white bread after developing an aversion to other solid food.



One woman and her dog: A walker and her pet take a trek in the snow which fell in County Durham yesterday

BASINESS

Barclays fall: Shares in Barclays fell 70'sp to £11.29 after the bank revealed a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.36 billion for 1996. The market expected more Page 25

Welcome Break: The motorway service stations have a new owner after Granada, the leisure group, sold them to Investoorp, the Bahrain investment group, for £476

E6 ba repaid: Britain repaid almost £6 billion of Government debt last month thanks to better than expected tax receipts Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 5.5 points to close at 4332.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 98.0 to 96.8 after a fall from \$1.6167 to \$1.6017 and from DM2.7473 to DM2.7085 Page 28 the world.

Cricket: Michael Atherton, the England captain, produced the most inspiring performance of his career to carry his side to victory in the final Test against New

Rugby union: Andre Markgraaff resigned as manager of the South Africa team after tacitly admitting making racist comments in a recorded conversation...... Page 48

Football: Negotiations are at an advanced stage over Juventus using Oxford United as a "finishing school" for their best young ... Page 44

Triathlou: The British Triathlou Association is backing plans for a London event this year that may challenge Chicago as the largest in

Pop party: The mood at Monday's Brit Awards will be distinctly upbeat as the pop music industry celebrates Britain's return to pre-.....Page 37

Rising stair: Jane Gardner is a classical composer about to see one of her works - five song settings premiered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Now she's ready to write an ... Page 37

Paper tigers: Doug Lucie's new play is a fictional tale of Fleet Street whose sex-obsessed, coke-snorting characters don't convince Benedict Nightingale

Texas comes to town: As the Houston Symphony Orchestra arrives to make its London debut, John Allison talks to its conductor, Christoph Eschenbach Page 39

IN THE TIMES

Geoff Brown marvels at

■ FILMS

the Travolta

BOOKS

Sitwell's letters

Nigella Lawson is appalled by the

Government's cruel cynicism towards those who cannot have Joe Joseph asks David Hyde

Pierce why film stars fight to get

Pretty deven Clements Ribeiro, have produced their second collection for Dorothy Perkins ... Page 16

Under threat?: Why we must save our Gang on Four. Michael Gove champions the Today Pages 22, 23. Have a go: Should the place of newspapers be in the press gallery or as advocates for the

.... Pages 22, 23

The good life: Where is the best place to live in Britain? The inhabitants of 189 towns and cities answer

prosecution? ...

phenomenon in Michael Prime Minister Netanyahu's announcement in the US that "he will support the Conversion Law ... which would, in Israel, deny recognition of conversion to Judaism the Israeli Chief Rabbinate," will cause an historic rift between Israel and the vast majority of Jews in the

Preview: Lucy Gannon of Soldier, Soldier sets her new drama in an open prison. Insiders (BBCI. 9.30pm). Review. Matthew Bond on a fruitful encounter between a knight and a dame Page 47

AR

Starr in his eyes

The possibility that American policy at home and abroad might have been for hire is infinitely more important than property specula-

One nation The more visible a role the nation's

ethnic minorities play in shaping the future, the better for Britain

Test of character

Uncertainty is the element in which cricket, like life, glories. At this rate England will start to think they can thrash Australia this summer. And once they believe that, they

MICHAEL ZANDER it is as wrong to leave to the defendant the choice of court as it would

be to leave to him the choice of

SIMON JENKINS

Already there is pressure to divert Russian resources into rebuilding its army and weapons base. Russian generals, reacting to enlargement, last month demanded that Mr Yeltsin retarget their missiles at Nato capitals. Who began all this? Nato, fidgeting.... PETER RIDDELL

The Government has too many ministers and the House of Commons too many MPs. This view is gaining support Page 11

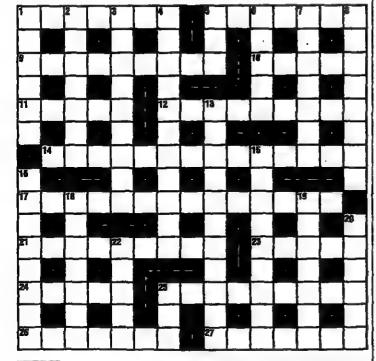
SIMON BARNES

Nogood Boyo is a character in Under Milk Wood. Contemplating life, he says: "I want to be good boyo - but they just won't let me." Phil Tufnell, the England spin bowler, to a tee Page 46

Captain John Wells, naval historian Marjorie Reynolds, film actress; Professor Vernou Joyce, entomologist; David Crichton. journalist and diplomat Page 21

Baroness Blatch on minimum sentences; women priests; long term care of the elderly... — Maariv

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,407



ACROSS

- l Foreign editor's fashionable surroundings (7). 5 New bread is cooked (7).
- 9 I crane to follow a very strong document out before court (9).
- 10 Stops free publicity (5). 11 Figure is firm, not altogether
- pleasant (5). 12 Criminal child seen by head (9). 14 A bacon sandwich has a place in
- children's game (3,2,3,6). 17 Epiphany revels are abandon
- with hesitation (14). 21 Plant finds right time to spread
- into land mass (9). 23 Flowering, the same or better (5).
- 1 24 Man's father, Wordsworth declared paradoxically (5).
- 25 Resent having to marry? (4,5). 26 Get away from Rocket, say - it's
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,406
- UNMAÑ CAEETEENA 2 U D K B B I D THEISM DATEUNE 3 S C S C TOSTA BETICULES 1 P U D A E

27 Stagger, having shock treatment invite to sit for extended period (2-

DOWN

- I Points, with teasing look (6). 2 Fancy new designation initially announced for Turkish title (7). 3 Sort of reasoning within Channel
- Four on drug (9). 4 A queen may be very nervous 44.7).
- 5 Take a risk showing all the letters
- after next answer (3). 6 Paul's second letter to the Corin thians? (5).
- 7 Hurried to secure chimney that's collapsed (7).
- 8 Unending love token I'd held up in confusion (8).
- 13 Something assumed by Holmes, when the game was afoot? ([1]). 15 Completely safe wearing bluish
- purple, say (9). 16 Criminal holding weapon level
- 18 Country-lover ready to overlook noisy behaviour (7).
- 19 Greek language employed in extremely large grid (7). 20 Half-hearted way in which crowd
- supports county (6). 22 Handsome deal secures this text
- 25 Weight down? (3).

of Euripides (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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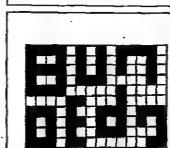
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AA Developments Led. Nation thinky limit designs to \$24 to:

BEST & LOWEST

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up * 1,7% of the co- Association UK necessary by 7 m fact half of 1996





Sir Michael Levey on the spoils of Renaissance Venice, Jeanette Winterson on Edith

General: much of England and sast Wales will have a dry start with clear slices and a touch of frost in central and eastern parts. Rain and windy weather already in the west will spread to all areas during the morning. Gales are expected and sleet or snow own

iigh ground. em Scotland will have a dry, bright start ahead of wet and windy weather, already over the west and Northern Ireland, spreading east. Gales are likely and snow over high ground.

Cl London, SE England, E Anglie: surery, trosty morning, clouding over with rain in the atternoon, clearing by late evening. Winds fresh becoming strong, south or southwest, gate in exposed parts. Cold. Max 9C (48F).

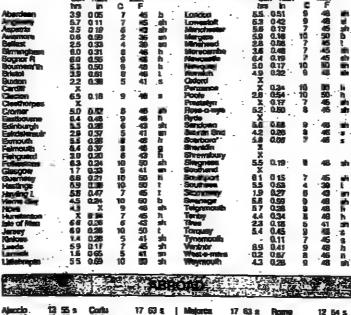
Control & England, E Mid-lands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, NW England, Later District, Carried N

England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Abardeen, Moray Firth: bright at first, then increasing cloud and rain spreading from the west during the morning. Becoming clearer with showers in the evening. Winds strong to gale, south or south-west. Cold. Max 9C (48F).

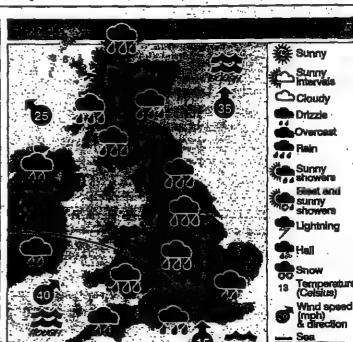
S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: overcast and wet with sleet or anow on hills, turning showery. Winds strong to gale, southwest or west. Max 8C (48F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: bright, isolated showers at first, then rain spreading from the spatch. Winds extrem to cale south. Winds strong to gale, perhaps severe gale, southeast veering south or southwest. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

Outlook: unsettled in the North with further wet and windy weether. More settled in the South.



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INSIDE SECTION

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ARTS

Land of pop and glory - and the Spice Girls **PAGES 37-39**



HOMES

The best place in Britain to live says a new survey **PAGE 41**



SPORT

Triathlon up and running on streets of London **PAGES 43-48**

TELEVISION and RADIO **PAGES** 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1997

Investcorp wins Welcome Break

Granada sells £566m of Forte assets

GRANADA GROUP continued to clear the decks of former Forte assets yes-terday with the sale of the Welcome Break service station chain and the Westbury hotels in London and New York for a combined price of £566 million.

Granada has raised £1.2 billion from disposals since it won its £3.9 billion takeover

battle for Forte a year ago.

The Welcome Break chain, which Granada had to sell by the end of April to avoid a reference to the Manopolies and Mergers Commission, was sold for £476 million to investcorp. The investment group, based in Bahrain, beat stiff competition for the 21-strong chain from Asda and CinVen, the venture capital group. Chelsfield, the property com-

Clyde is the loser by a fraction

GULF Canada Resources won its takeover battle for Clyde Petroleum by a hair's breadth with just 51.42 per cent of the shares under its control at yesterday's Ipm deadline. The £494 million cash

offer was successful despite a late attempt by a friendly investor to swing the bal-ance in Clyde's favour. SHV Energy, the private Dutch group that acquired Calor last year, bought four million shares at the 120pper-share bid price from Global Asset Management. It acquired a further 400,000 shares in the mar-

ket, giving the Dutch com-pany, which has joint venture gas interests with Clyde in The Netherlands, almost I per cent. Gulf had already bought 29 per cent of Clyde's

shares, including a 14 per cent stake held by PDFM. the fund manager. Accep-tances received by the deadline yesterday totalled 38.4 million shares. amounting to 21.43 per cent of the company. The are thought to have included some 8 per cent of the company held by Norwich Union. Schroders, the fund manager which has been a strong supporter of Clyde, is not thought to have accepted the bid.

Malcolm Gourlay. Clyde's chairman, said control of the company had passed by the finest of margins. "We are extremely disappointed ... However, we do appreciate the strong support shown by a large body of our share-

The bid battle had focused intially on a dispute over the proper method to value Clyde, with Gulf basing its bid on net asset value. Meanwhile Clyde insisted that comparable companies valued on cashflow multiples suggested a much higher price. However, the recent fall in the oil price worked against Clyde and is believed to have left investors fearful of losing Gulf's

pany, bought the two West-bury hotels for £90 million. The sale prices were well ahead of market expectations and mean that Granada has made a total profit of £206 million over book value from its disposals programme.

Eleven hotels in the Exclusive hotel chain; including the Ritz in Rome and Plaza Athenee in Paris, are still to be sold although the company said it was confident of making the sales over the next couple of months. Granada will also put its 63 per cent stake in the Savoy Hotel Group, valued at about £200 million, up for auction. Gra-nada has already sold the Hyde Park Hotel in London, the King George V in Paris and Sandy Lane in Barbados for about £230 million.

But the company confirmed.

that it will not sell the Grosvenor House hotel in London. Granada is believed to have faced difficulty finding bid-ders willing to match the £350 million price tag. The com-pany is understood to be aiming to double profits at the 600-room hotel to £40 million over the next couple of years. Ellion Bernerd, chairman of Chelsfield, said the company is looking to develop the retail potential of the Westbury hotels, which occupy prime sites Madison Avenue, New York. The company believes it can create up to four units in the London hotel with about 28,000 ft of retailing space. Chelsfield will spend \$15 mil-

lion on the conversion and

aims to attract rents of \$4 mil-

lion in Madison Avenue and £2 million from Bond Street. Granada said that net pro-

ceeds of the Westbury sales will be £50 million, £9.5 million above book value, after the unwinding of leasing arrangements at the Westbury in New York. Last year the hotels produced pre-tax profits

Michael Guthrie, previous-chief executive of the Pavilion motorway service station chain, will become chief executive of Welcome Break. Mr Guthrie is expected to serve in this capacity for at least a year before becoming chairman: Richard Warner, a member

of Investcorp's management committee, said Welcome Break had been undermarketed and underdeveloped. Investoorp believes there is a significant opportunity to improve profitability and quality through a £50 million expansion. Investoorp is looking at other acquisition oppornunities in the UK. Last year Welcome Break earned operating profits of £32 million on turnover of £335 million.

Granada said the sale price of Welcome Break Was £14 million above book value. chain's airports and trunk roads businesses which made an operating profit of more than £5 million last year. But the City was relatively

unmoved by the sales and Granada shares fell ip to 928 p. Cheisfield shares were unchanged at 328 hp.



Karren Brady, managing director of Birmingham City, will get share options worth £375,000 in the football club's £25 million AIM flotation. Page 26

Shares slide at Barclays in spite of £2.4bn profit

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

terday in spite of the bank full-year profits to £2.4 billion and pledging to return £500 million to shareholders dur-

The share price tumbled 70²2p to close at 1129p on the ground that the figures were at the lower end of the market's expectations and because of the sharper than predicted fall in operating profits at BZW, the global investment banking arm of Bardays. which chipped in £204 million, against £289 million in

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, went out of his way yesterday to give his personal support to the whole-sale changes of staff and strategy that have taken place at BZW. These began with the arrival last September of Bill Harrison from Robert Flem-

The recruitment of expensive senior staff and the redundancies that followed were responsible for almost the entire fall in the profits from the investment banking divi-sion. Costs rose to £1.1 billion, from £901 million previously, and provisions were up £10 million to £12 million.

Without the personnel costs. move to new offices at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands later this year, BZW saw its total income rise to £1.3 bil-lion, from £1.2 billion, in the year to December 31.

Barclays, which saw its earnings per share increase to 104.2p from 83.6p last time, said that it had still to decide the best mechanism for returning the £500 million earmarked for shareholders. On

cluding the half-time results last August, Barclays has taken the share buyback route One alternative is for the bank to pay a special dividend although that could have unwelcome tax implications for

some investors. On the mainstream dividend, Barclays lifted its final payout to 20p, payable on April 29, from 16.5p previous-ly, making a total for the year of 31.5p, against 26p last time. Barclays reported substantially increased profits in almost all of its business areas

and a fall in bad debt provisions to £215 million, from £396 million in 1995. Profits in UK personal banking rose to £773 million, against £659

million, while business banking was up £47 million at £801 million. Barclaycard signed up more than 900,000 new

In the competitive home loans market the cost of incentives rose £4 million to £70 million. The bank's asset management group, which in-cludes Wells Fargo in America and Barclays Unicorn, the UK si business, chippeu in a £10 million increase in operating profits to £32

million. Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barcleys, which set aside about £96 million for the staff profit-sharing scheme, said: As a group we have sought to give value to shareholders while investing substantially in better service for customers and recognising the efforts of

BUSINESS **TODAY**

SSS STOLLAR

HORTH SEA OIL

BOLD.

Britannic bonus Shares in Britannic

Assurance rose by 67p, to 870p, after the group transferred £902 million from its life fund into shareholders' funds. The group will raise its 1996 dividend by 82 per cent and piedge to maintain a progressive dividend policy.

SmithKline tonic

SmithKline Beecham, the drug giant, raised 1996 pretax profits by 14 per cent, to £1.54 billion, although it biamed the strong pound for the loss of E35 million of profits in the fourth quarter.

١,٠

Clarke welcomes tax and debt figures

BRITAIN'S public finances showed a sharp improvement in January with a bumper haul of both corporation tax and VAT receipts which should mean that the Government comfortably undershoots its own target for

borrowing this year.
The Government repaid £5.82 billion of borrowing last month, nearly twice the amount the City had predicted and the biggest monthly sur-plus since records began in 1989. This left cumulative borrowing in the first ten months of the year at £10.34 billion, a sharp improvement on the £19.34 billion accumulated over the same period a year ago, according to the latest figures from the Office for

National Statistics. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, welcomed the figures as "excellent" and said: "These figures are further confirmation that borrowing is on a dear downward path. We are now comfortably on track for the Budget forecast and 1 am hopeful we will do even better

STERLING slumped four

pfennigs yesterday in reaction to the Bank of England's

distinct softening of its de-mands for higher base rates

The pound reacted dramati-

cally to testimony before the

Commons Treasury Select Committee late on Monday by

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. He said

(Janet Bush writes).

than that." In his Budget in November, Mr Clarke announced a Public Sector Borrowing Requirement predic-tion for the year as a whole of £26.4 billion with a forecast of a £19.2 billion PSBR in the

fiscal year 1997-98. The City said yesterday that borrowing could undershoot this year by several billions and that next year's projection now looks plausible. Keith Davies, UK Economist at



Governor's remarks hit sterling

now less urgent and sterling's strength recently meant that

the Government could hit its

2.5 per cent inflation target at

to 96.8 at the close yesterday

from 98 on Monday. The

pound was quoted at DM2.708S compared with

The mark was stronger in

DM27473 late on Monday.

the need for a rate rise was its own right as investors

Sterling's effective index fell

the end of this Parliament.

4cast, said: "The strength of January's receipts data sug-gests that the PSBR is increasingly likely to come in under the £26.4 billion target and suggests that an improving fiscal environment awaits an incoming government - of

whichever persuasion."

There was good news on both the revenue and spending sides of the equation. Cumular ive corporation tax receipts are now some 17 per cent higher than in the first ten months of last year. For the full year, the Treasury predicted an increase of IO.6 per cent. VAT was also encouraging with cumulative receipts up 15 per cent from last year. Again, VAT receipts look set to beat the Treasury's forecast for the full year of an

increase of 10.2 per cent. Spending is slightly over shooting Treasury projections. up 2.7 per cent so far in the current fiscal year compared with the Treasury's planned increase for the whole year of 2.2 per cent. However, analysts said this overshoot is small

baled out of the lira and peseta

on doubts about whether they

would join the first wave of a

single currency. The mark

shot up 10 line after a Belgian

newspaper quoted the Gover-nor of Belgium's central bank

as saying that monetary union

would be better off starting

without Italy. The Governor

later denied his remarks had

referred to Italy, but the

damage had been done.

Ahmanson launches \$6bn bid for rival

FROM RICHARD THOMSON THE INPW YORK

A SURPRISE \$6 billion hostile bid has been launched by HF Ahmanson, America's largest savings and loan (S&L) company, for Great Western Financial, which is ranked number two.

The combined group would have assets of around \$95 billion. S&Ls are America's building societies with their shares listed on the New York stock market.

Ahmanson said it launched the unsolicited bid after discussions about a possible merger failed to make progress. The offer of \$42.53 a share for Great Western represents a 23 per cent premium to Monday's closing price. There was no immediate response from Great Western.

Charles Rinehart, Ahmanson's chairman, said he estimated cost savings of around \$400 million, more than the combined profits of the two S&Ls last year. Both companies are based in the Los Angeles area, where about 200 of their 800 branches would be closed.

The takeover would elevate Ahmanson into new areas of banking, such as cheque accounts, business loans and financial advice, which Great Western has pioneered in the S&L industry. Until recently Ahmanson was restricted to savings accounts and mort-

The offer is by far the largest in a wave of consolidations in the S&L industry similar to the merger mania that swept the American banking industry

Nortgages especially for directors and the self employed ...and no details of income needed!

FINDING A MORTGAGE if you are self employed or a director of your own company can be a frustrating experience. Many lenders will request 3 years full audited accounts before an application is even considered, whilst others now refuse such applications completely.

Allied Dunbar, on the other hand, positively welcomes such requests and, in conjunction with a major UK bank, has developed an exclusive mortgage atrangement to cater for these

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For the life you don't yet know



Bankers expected to vouch for fraud controls

BY ROBERT MILLER BANKING CORRESPONDENCE

SENIOR UK bank directors will in future have to provide annual evidence to the Bank of England that their internal audit systems are robust and that adequate controls are in place

to prevent fraud. The Bank's proposals, published yesterday by its Supervision and Surveillance department and almost certain to come into force, also call for comments on the introduction of a routine bilateral meeting between the Bank's watchdog

Avon sells

division

for £60m

Avon Rubber, the car parts

producer, is selling its tyres division to Cooper

Tire & Rubber of America, for £60 million. The sale

generates a £12 million

profit, which will be invest-

ed in the spare parts supply business. Avon said it is in talks with six

potential takeover targets.

assets of £45.3 million,

claims just 0.1 per cent of the world tyre market. It carned profits of £8.2 mil-

lion on sales of £111 million

last year. Cooper, which only operates in America.

will use the division to

spearhead its expansion

into Europe Avon shares

Roxspur plan

Roxspur, the engineering

instruments group, said it plans to acquire business-

es, products and brands

consistent with its core

activities. Pre-tax profits

were £771.000 (£536,000

loss) in the half year to

December 31. Earnings

were 0.21p (0.3p loss). As last year, there is no inter-im dividend, However, the

board expects to pay a final dividend, subject to

Clondalkin, the Irish print

and packaging group, an-nounced a 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to a record Ir£22.3 million for

the year to December 1996.

A final dividend of 4.2p,

payable on April II, lifts

the total 10 per cent to 6.6p.

Stadium rise

a maiden total of 4p.

ABP hit

in Humberside.

Stadium Group, the plastic and electronics com-

the group's recovery.

Profits lift

rose 334p to 7214p.

The division, which had

and the individual reporting accountant (RA). Commenting on the RA regime in its consultative document, the Bank says that it reached the conclusion that it "is a valuable supervisory tool, but accepts that it does not work as effectively as was hoped when the regime was introduced in 1988".

In order to set out the parameters of responsibility for bank directors and senior managers, as opposed to the statutory rules for auditors, the Bank has said that it will publish a special guidance notice on corporate

This note will spell out the role of the board of directors, the audit committee, senior management and internal audit, and "provide guidance on the high level operating controls which the Bank would expect institutions to have in

The Bank supervision team, headed by Michael Foot, added that "there would also be value in requiring an annual statement from the board of directors of each authorised institution given its ultimate responsibility for effectiveness and for ensuring that the institu- reduced from seven to five years."

tion continues to comply with the minimum criteria for authorisation set out in section three

of the Banking Act On the role of auditors, the Bank - which also published a second paper yesterday on The Objectives, Standards and Processes of Banking Supervision — highlighted the professional requirement for lead audit partners who audit listed companies to rotate. The Bank said that the requirement should apply to work carried out for all authorised institutions. The Bank the system of internal control, for monitoring its added: "For such work, the cycle should be

Campaign on shares by Irish Permanent

FROM EULEEN MCCABE IN DUTILLIN

AN estimated \$0,000 people who have not yet taken up their entitlement to more than 14 million shares in Irish Permanent, the Irish Republic's biggest mortgage lender, have been given until Septem-ber to lodge their claims.

Announcing a 14.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to Ir£48.6 million, for 1996, Roy Douglas, chief executive, said that he believed that family issues and a climate of secrecy about money accounts might be responsible for the reluctance of so many people to come forward. The former building society, which floated more than two years ago, is to undertake an advertising campaign to inform potentia claimants about the shares, which will be extinguished if unclaimed after September 21. In its core market of residen-

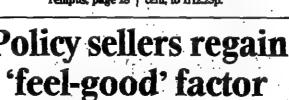
rose by 39 per cent, to Ir£528 million, in 1996, lifting market share to more than 21 per cent. Commercial mortgages rose by 23 per cent, to IrE74 million. The car and small consumer loans sector had growth of 69 per cent in new business, to Ir£108 million.

Overall net interest income grew by 10 per cent. to tre101 million, Other income rose by 7.4 per cent, to Ir£17.7 million.

Mr Douglas said that buy-ing Capital Home Loans, the UK centralised mortgage lender, in October had left Irish Permanent well placed to gain from recovery in the UK mortgage market. The sitions is in the Irish Republic and he reiterated Irish Permanent's interest in TSB, the state-controlled bank, if it is put on the market by the Irish Government

Abbey National has a 9.9 per cent stake in Irish Permanent. The five-year protection period for newly floated companles in Ireland expires in just over two years.

Earnings were 1:39.4p a share, up from 1:34.2p. A final dividend of 1:8.25p, due on May 23, lifts the total by 16 per cent, to lr12.25p.



By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

AFTER two years of recession, products, which became evithe life and pensions industry has recovered the "feel-good" dent at the end of 1995, continued throughout 1996." factor and has reported a 33.

Premium income for new per cent rise in new policies. Sales in 1996 totalled E18.9 life insurance business, at £3.7 billion, rose by 28 per cent. billion, the highest since 1993. Sales of new life and pen-New single premiums, at £3.3 billion, increased by 28 per sion policies in the fourth cent, with annual premiums, at £400 million, rising by 20 quarter of 1996 were up £5 billion, or 24 per cent. The per cent. figures show that the industry is emerging from the dark days of the pensions mis-selling scandal and the effects

For individual pensions, premium income was £1.3 billion, 17 per cent ahead. New annual premiums were £300 million, up 20 per cent, with single premiums, at £1 billion, rising 16 per cent.

· Pennington, page 27

Marriott to pay \$1bn for Renaissance MARRIOTT International, the US hotels group, has agreed

to acquire Renaissance Hotel Group, the Dutch company whose hotel brands include Ramada and New World, for \$1 billion. The companies will jointly have more than 1,300 hotels worldwide, across ten brands. Marriott expects annual cost savings of between \$15 million and \$20 million to result from the merger. By late 1997, Marriott's worldwide lodging system is expected to exceed 300,000 hotel rooms.

Marriott hotels include Ritz-Carlton, Courtyard and Prisfield and the systems and include in the control of the courty and and include and the systems and its courty and and include and the systems are included. Fairfield and the purchase will greatly expand its presence in the Asian market. Renaissance shareholders who own more than 54 per cent of the voting stock have agreed to the acquisition and will receive \$30 a share in cash. Marriott expects its earnings before interest charges, tax, depreciation and amortisation to rise by up to \$85 million in the 12 months after the acquisition.

St Modwen advances

SIGNS of recovery in the property sector were underlined yesterday when St Modwen, the property investment and development company, said that it had returned to growth. Its rental income rose by 39 per cent, to £11.4 million, in the year to November 30. Revenue almost doubled to £40.2 million, from E20.8 million. Pre-tax profits were £11.7 million (£10 million). Heavy spending on property took gearing to 97 per cent, from 57 per cent. Earnings per share were 6.8p (6.1p). A L7p final dividend; due on April 18, makes 2.5p (2.1p).

Building new jobs

THE building industry has put forward pre-election proposals for a new government which, it says, would create 150,000 jobs. Proposals from the the Building Employers Confederation and the Major Contractors Group cover taxation, investment, training and the environment. Sir Martin Laing, BEC bead and chairman of John Laing Construction and the construc Construction, said the construction industry was "fundamental" to the British economy, reflecting economic confidence in the way that no other industry could.

Chambers network

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, will today announce an approved network of 52 chambers of commerce to improve the local representation system for businesses. Approved chambers include those in Birmingham, London, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Bristol, Sheffield and Glasgow. David Richardson, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: This new network responds to the needs of the modern company and gives them powerful representation at local, national and international levels."

Finelist in takeover

FINELIST, the distributor of automotive components, is acquiring First Line, a wholesale parkager and distribu-tor of spare parts, for a sum of £7.2 million. Finelist is paying an initial £2 million in cash and £2.7 million in shares with the balance related to future profits. First Line earned profits of £500,000 in the year to March 31. Chris Swan, the chairman of Finelist, said that First Line would benefit from an improved relationship with suppliers and increased investment as part of a large group.

CompuServe chief quits

executive of CompuServe, the world's second biggest computer online service company, for "personal reasons", Mr Massey, 51, had held the post for only 18 months. CompuServe has struggled against America Online, its main competitor, and its share price has fallen 60 per cent since last April, when it was valued at \$30 a share in an initial public offering. Third-quarter results, due tomorrow, will follow a second-quarter loss of \$24.5 million.

European drive by Colt

COLT, the telecoms company that floated in December, said yesterday that it would expand its European business by constructing high-capacity networks for corporate customers this year in Munich, Hamburg, Berlin and Paris. The 1997 capital expenditure programme is to double to almost £80 million. The company, formerly City of London Telecommunications, reported a loss of £11.2 million in the year to December 31, against a loss of £5.2 million in the previous year, on turnover that almost tripled to £35 million.

Chez Gerard grows

GROUPE CHEZ GERARD, the West End restaurant group, has bought Livebait, a fashionable fish restaurant at Waterloo. central London, for up to £1.5 million. The company, which already owns nine restaurants, said the acquisition would enhance earnings and complement its fish restaurants, Cafe Fish and Scotts. Livebalt made a £62,000 profit on sales of E474,000 in its first year. Chez Gerard reported interim profits of £1.31 million (£1.35 million). The interim dividend rises 1) per cent, to 1p, due on May 13. Earnings per share were 5.1p (5.2p).

Setback for Macro 4

SHARES in Macro 4 fell 52½ p, to 422½ p, after the independent software company said that it suffered a 13.8 per cent fall in pretax profits to E5.13 million, from E5.96 million, in the half year to December 31. The company attributed the decline to the pound's strength and said that full-year profits would also be adversely affected if there is no appreciable change in exchange rates. Earnings per share fell by 7.8 per cent. to 16.5p, but the dividend is rising by 4.3 per cent, to 9.7p. At constant exchange rates, profits would have been little changed at £5.9 million.



Roy Douglas, left, and Peter Fitzpatrick, finance director, yesterday said they were focusing on buying in the Irish Republic.

Lish Permanent's new lending

Britannic investors to share in £1bn bonanza

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SHAREHOLDERS in Britannic Assurance will receive an 82 per cent dividend increase insurer won approval to redis-tribute nearly El billion of

pany, lifted pre-tax profits to £4.7 million (£4 million) in 1996. Earnings were unchanged at IL5p. A final dividend of 3p makes Associated British Ports is taking a £3 million charge against its planned withdrawal from Universal Pipe Coaters, a joint ven-ture with Powell Duffryn

next month after the life surplus assets. The insurer's 1.2 million policyholders will also share in a £209 million payout.

worth an average £175 to each. Shares surged 662p, to 870p, on the news. Shares in Prudential, which is also seeking to share out part of its estimated £5 billion surplus. fell 8½p, to 564½p, amid City fears that talks with the Depariment of Trade and Industry would be less successful. Brian Shaw, Britannic's chief executive, said that he now expected double-digit div-

idend increases in future years. This progressive divi-dend policy would lift the total dividend for 1996 from 15.4p to 28p when the insurer reports 18. he said.

Surplus assets, known in the industry as orphan estate, are a sum of money in the life fund of an insurance company which is more than that needed to meet "the reasonable demand of policyholders". In practice, this means a sum to cover the cost of paying annual bonuses plus adequate reserves for any lean years of stock market growth.

A number of insurers have already concluded talks with the DTI over their orphan estate and have paid out

policyholders and shareholders. They include Pearl Assurance, London & Manchester, Legal & General, United Friendly and Refuge Assurer as United Assurance).

Bonuses to Britannic policyholders will be added to the value of with-profits insurance or pension policies, and vary according to the length of time they have been held.

A maturing 15-year endowment policy with a premium of £5 collected every four weeks from the home will be allocated an additional £110 in bonus. A maturing 25-year endowment policy with a £20 premium will be allocated an

extra £762 bonus. Britannic has had its life

fund valued at £5.7 billion, of which £902 million has been attributed to shareholders. Britannic said yesterday that it was writing to all with-

shareholders to inform them of the proposals, which in-cludes change in its Articles of Association. The plans will be set out in a special resolution to be put to the annual meeting on May 9.

Asked whether Britannic had been approached by other companies with a view to a merger or takeover, Mr Shaw said that Britannic was "an independent and financially viable company, and we intend to stay that way".

Tempus, page 28

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Options for boss of | Policy sellers regain **Birmingham City**

By JASON NISSE

DEAR

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KARREN BRADY, the 27year-old managing director of Birmingham City, has been given share options worth E375,000 as part of the first division football club's E25 million flotation on the Alternative Investment Market.

Ms Brady is receiving options over 750,000 shares at 50p each. She is also buying 10,000 shares in the float, while Trevor Francis, the team manager, is purchasing 40,000 and Steve Bruce, the club captain, 50,000.

Ms Brady said Mr Bruce received a £350,000 signing fee when he left Manchester United to join Birmingham

MERCURY

last summer. The float values the stake held by Sport Newspapers, the soft porn publisher run by David Sullivan, at £14.8 million. Sport took control of the group in 1993 and has invested £6.57 million. Birmingham is raising £7.5

million. largely through a placing with institutions, but there will be an opportunity for private investors. The money will be used to invest in new players and on the ground at St Andrews.

In the year to August 1996 the club made operating profits, before transfer payments, of just £803,000 on turnover of

Boleat, director-general of the Association of British Insurers, said: "The upturn in the sales of new life and pension TOURIST ...

of greater disclosure. Mark

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In accordance with the standard conditions relating to the payment of the undermentioned dividends declared on 17 January 1997, payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of R7.1635 South African currency to £1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remitmances between the Republic

of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 17 February 1997, as advised by the companies South The United Kingdom currency equivalents of the dividends are therefore as follows: Amount (All companies are incorporated in <u>Dividend</u> THE KINES the Republic of South Africa) (Dence)

Gold Fields Property Company Limited	148	3.48991
New Wits Limited	92	2.37314
Vogelstruisbult Metal Holdings Limited	100	3.48991
London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrar: per pro GOLD Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited Greencoat House Francis Street	FIELDS CORPORAT.	. By order of the boards E SERVICES LIMITED Landon Secretarie S.), Dunning
London SW1P (DH	***	Secretary
18 February 1997		

WOULDN'T it be nice to run a lottery that nobody ever won, a casino that never paid out wher-ever the roulette ball fell. Some fear that this no-win game is be-

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Macro4

ing invented by the big insurers. You can be blacklisted if you live in an area where burglary or subsidence are common. You may have difficulty finding car insurance unless you have a safe garage in which you lock your vehicle every night. Make a claim on the car and just watch next year's premiums rocket.

Now there are worries that the principle of red-lining parts of the population is spreading to life insurance through the use of advanced genetic testing to work out which applicants are most likely to die from certain dis-eases, and then deny them insurance cover or charge them higher premiums.

It is tempting to blame the greed of insurers, but, in reality, this is a hideously complex moral issue. First off, genetic predisposition to a disease is already widely used to select out applicants; tick the box that says beth property died early of heart both parents died early of heart disease and your premiums will reflect this. This is actuarial screening, not genetic, but the result is the same.

Barred from the genetic casino genetic test from all applicants.

Medical science will allow more risks, from voluntary ones, such as smoking, through grey issues, such as Aids, to risks that are and more diseases to be detected this way and screened out. The Association of British Insurers

entirely involuntary, those hidden genetic disorders. Some has come up with a compromise voluntary behaviour can reasonwith little effect in the real world. ably be made more expensive to which defers a final decision for insure against. If the doctors carry on, and Applicants will be required to they will, the insurance industry report the results of all medical will one day have to take a moral tests, as before, but in most cases stand and forbid refusal of cover genetic tests will not be used to

offered. The assumption must be that, come 1999, the hawks maintaining that stance across among the insurers will make more headway and use of genetic evidence will be more common. the whole industry, and not allowing some firms to cherry-pick the healthiest customers. Welcome break able of reasons. As with Aids testing, this tends to happen before they have to think fully about their insurance needs. for Guthrie?

for such involuntary medical

risks. The difficulty will be

MOTORWAY services must be the ultimate non-dis-cretionary purchase. No one stops at a Welcome Break for fun, you stop out of physical need or because the kids are becoming too fractious in the back. There is

PENNINGTON



little active consumer choice, either; no one drove 30 miles past a Welcome Break to get to a Granada, or vice versa.

So the policy so far has been to price as high as the trade will bear, keep investment low and leave the customers to look after themselves. It is at first hard to see what has persuaded invest-corp, the Bahrain-backed investment house, to pay well over the odds for 21 Welcome Breaks and promise another £50 million to

do them up.

The price, plus that investment, represents about 12 times' historic profits before interest and tax. Investcorp has gran-

diose plans to create the world leader in motorway caffs, and even export this to places where

the idea has yet to catch on. Previous attempts to make motorway services more profitable have focused on increasing spend per head, persuading you to have that one more coffee while bribing the kids with Smarties and a cheap colouring book. Welcome Break's new owners have cleverly seen through to the fundamental drawback of this approach, that the places are so awful that no

one willingly extends their stay. They instead aim to raise productivity, so drivers are less likely to be put off by lengthy queues. They claim one advantage; the petrol price wars have educed the premium motorway fuel used to enjoy, making a detour onto an A-road for a pit stop less of a saving and so attracting more potential customers to the cates.

Investcorp's average period of investment is a little more than four years. Michael Guthrie, the

chairman, might at last get a stock market float out of this one. after a couple of false starts in Brightreasons and Pavilion.

Dynamic disarray

□ JUST listen to this. The changes will clarify the structure and give a sharper edge to our global offering for multinational clients." They really do talk like that, these public relations people. That was Colin Trusler, big cheese at Shandwick, putting a positive spin on the departure of half his City team.

The last time this column said anything remotely disparaging about a City PR firm, someone came round to The Times almost immediately with a flip-chart.

Fact. Still, here goes.
City PR companies, like amoebas and other equally low forms of life, reproduce by fission. So it is virtually impossible to shackle any employee to his or her desk, except by paying huge amounts

of money, generally far more than they are worth. They are even more fissiparous than advertising agencies, because a campaign can be identified and judged, however subjectively. The "added value" the PR industry gives to its clients is rather more ill-defined - often little more than a personal relation-ship with the bosses at the company, which is why the account tends to move on the

arrival of a new chairman. The Shandwick executives leaving will take an unspecified number of accounts with them. and this will do an unspecified amount of damage to the business remaining. Such un-certainty should make the shares impossible to value, yet they still sell on 12 times this year's estimated earnings. Pretty silly, for a company that on the industry's past record might not

be around in 12 years. These are not good businesses for the stock market, yet one such, Citigate, is about to float. Citigate was unconcerned yesterday about the implications of the walk-out at Shandwick. What, nothing positive about the abundance of new start-ups in the sector proving its dynamic potential ? Come, come - somebody isn't trying.

The real moral dilemma is that A number of insurers want a New drugs fuel growth at SmithKline Beecham

SmithKline Beecham (SB), Britain's second largest pharmaceuticals group, yesterday promised continued high growth as a multitude of new drug products gain

Jan Leschly, chief executive, said: "We believe that we can maintain our objective of double-digit earnings growth in 1997." The optimistic outlook helped to lift the shares 13p to 89412p. putting them within striking distance of their 52-week high of 9042p.

The company said, however, that pre-tax earnings this year could fall by as-much as 5 per cent if sterling

remains at year-end levels. Earnings were reduced by £35 million, or 9 per cent, in the last quarter of 1996, when sterling rose sharply against the American and European

two years at least.

decide whether cover can be

The danger is that people have genetic tests for the most respect-

Strain out the positive tests, and

you are penalising the respon-

sible, or encouraging them to be

irresponsible by ignoring any

The fourth-quarter currency hit reduced earnings by 2 per cent in the full year. SB, unlike its rival Zeneca, does not hedge against currency

In the year to December 31, SB reported pre-tax profits of £1.55 billion, up 14 per cent, on sales of £7.93 billion, up 13 per cent. Excluding the effects of currency fluctuations, pre-tax profits rose 16 per cent to £1.57 billion. Earnings per share of

mercial production - in 1996. 37.9p, up 12 per cent, were in SB will not lose any drug line with City forecasts. New drugs, defined as drugs patents until 2002.

introduced in the past five years, are driving SB's growth. Sales of such products last year were up 37 per cent to £1.54 billion, and margins were maintained at 24.8 per cent in spite of a 19 per cent rise in research and development spending to £703 million. tion that CL would be put up The star performer was

Seroxat/Paxil, the depression and panic disorder treatment that was introduced in 1992. Its sales were up by almost half to £706 million

Five of the company's com-pounds entered Phase 3 trials the final tests before comPEPTIDE Therapeutics, the vaccine development company that has partnership deals with Medeva and SmithKline Beecham, has

Management

shake-up

at Peptide

unveiled senior manage ment changes (Paul

John Brown, finance di-rector, becomes chief execu-

tive, replacing Alan Goodman, who will become deputy chairman and be responsible for licensing deals in North America. Si deals in North America.

Brian Richards, 65 later this

year, is giving up his execu-

tive role, although he will

on research and develop-ment last year. With negligi-

ble sales of £150,000, this pro-

duced a pre-tax loss of £4.6 million (£3.6 million loss).

Peptide spent £5 million

remain chairman.

Hugh Collum, chief financial officer, said that "pricing was still under pressure" at the Clinical Laboratories division in the US. CL's sales were up 2 per cent to £840 million, but this was the result of volume instead of price increases. He denied specula-

A fourth-quarter interim dividend of 5.85p, up 26 per cent, is to be paid on April 15, making the full-year dividend 17.85p, up 25 per cent.

Shandwick chiefs to set up PR rival

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHANDWICK International, the public relations group, is losing one third of the directors of its City arm. They are quitting to set up a rival company (See Pennington,

this page).
The news sparked specula-tion that some Shandwick clients may move their accounts, despite an agreement by the defectors not to work for current clients for at least 12

Clients of directors who have left Shandwick include British Gas, Tarmac, Railtrack, Cookson, 3i and the Halifax Lord Chadlington, chairman of Shandwick, is on the Halifax board and that, along with the flotation, makes it an unlikely candidate for switching. But Halifax said

yesterday that it intended to review its PR needs after the float. The contract with British Gas, which was to see it through its demerger, is also about to end. The new consultancy, the

Hogarth Partnership, will be launched on April 1. Chris Matthews, former chief executive of Shandwick Consultants, the City PR arm, will take on the same role at the new firm. Nick Denton, John Olsen and James Longfield will leave at the end of March while Rachel Hirst will stay

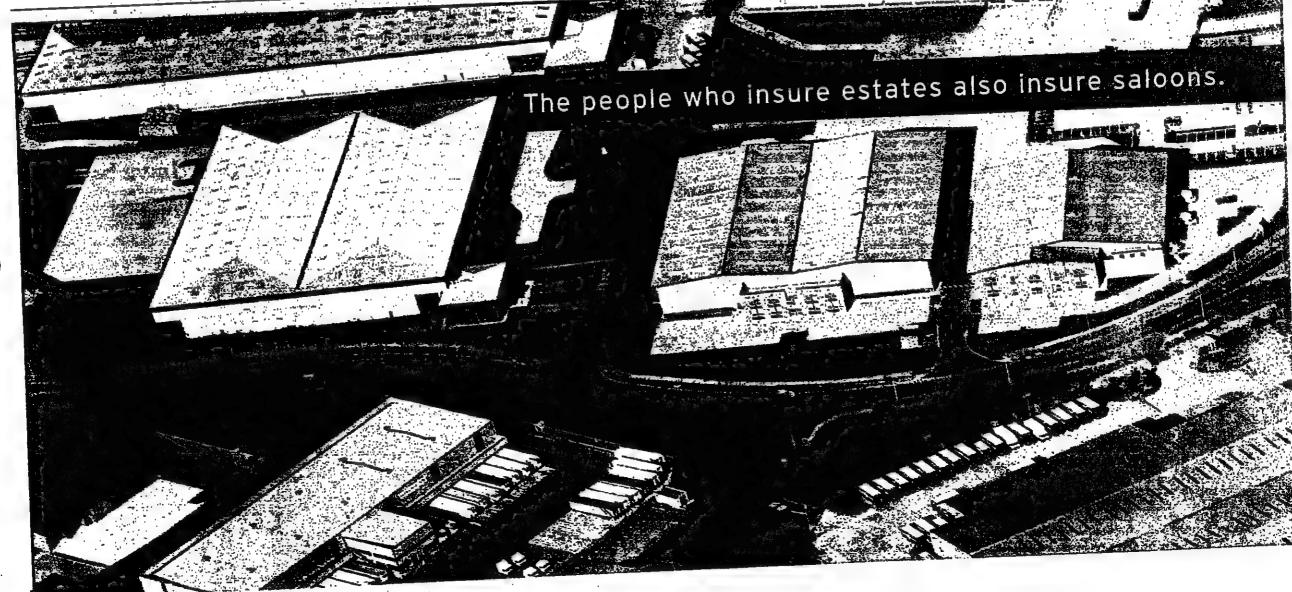
until the Halifax flotation. Shandwick Consultants is restructuring into three divi-sions and has appointed Colin Trusler, managing director of Shandwick's UK operations. as temporary chief executive.

Sedgwick extends RTI stake

SEDGWICK GROUP, the insurance broker, is acquiring a further 50 per cent interest in River Thames Insurance from Transamerica Corpora-tion for up to £14 million

(Martin Barrow writes). Sedgwick will then own 99 per cent of River Thames, which ceased underwriting new business in November 1996 and was put into orderly run-off with immediate effect.

Sedgwick's 1996 pre-tax profits rose 5 per cent to £95.5 million. Earnings eased to 11.6p a share from 12.6p, reflecting a lower tax rate in 1995. With a total dividend of 7.25p a share the underlying dividend for the year is unchanged





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Unilever tipped to take bite at United Biscuits

CITY speculators were running through the old takeover favourites yesterday in their search for possible targets for cash-rich Unilever. At the top of that list is United Biscuits. the McVitie, Crawfords and

KP food group. Last week, Unilever, 2p cheaper at £16.0212, said that it would use the proceeds from the sale of its chemical interests to make several sizeable acquisitions. Failing that, it will return the money to shareholders.

UB. Ip dearer at 233p. has risen sharply since the start of the year with a growing number of brokers confident that the long-awaited bid for the company will soon materialise. UB, which has had its fair share of problems in recent years, carries a price tag of £1.2 billion, well within the scope of Unilever, which weighs in at a stockmarket worth of £32.1 billion.

The rest of the equity market saw early gains frittered away after an uncertain start to trading in New York. Shares had followed gilts higher first thing, cheered by the admission from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that there was less of a need for a rise in interest rates. The FT-SE 100 index closed 5.5 down at 4,332.3 on turnover of 884 million shares.

Centrica, demerged earlier this week from British Gas, continued to lose ground in heavy trading, sliding 134p to 6312p. That stretches the loss during the past two days to 12p with a further 55 million shares changing hands. BG, which includes the exploration and pipeline side of the business, ended 112p dearer at

Shares of Energy Group began trading at a premium on the grey market ahead of the completion next week of Hanson's three-stage demerger programme. Shares in Energy, made up of Eastern Group in Britain and Peabody in the US, started life at 530p and touched a peak of 54312p before settling just 312p dearer at 53312p on turnover of al-

most one million shares. NatWest Securities, the broker, says there is better value elsewhere and it prefers National Power, down 5120 at 50112p. Merrill Lynch complains there is little synergy

within Energy. There was a lukewarm refrom Bardays Bank showing



Jan Leschly of SmithKline Beecham, up 13p on higher profits

pre-tax profits 13 per cent higher. The final outcome was at the lower end of City forecasts, leaving the shares 70'ap lower at Ell.29 after their recent record-breaking run. Brokers said the fall might have been even greater had it not been for a 21 per cent rise in the final payout.

Lloyds TSB continued to make headway as the City

holders of 23p. The news left Pradential Corporation 812p off at 56412p.

A 16 per cent increase in profits to £1.57 billion last year nt SmithKline Beecham was given the thumbs-up with the shares rising 13p at 89412p. Most of the improvement stemmed from sales of new drugs. But Jan Leschly, chief executive, warned that the

It may be time to take some profits at Boots the chemist after the recent strong run by the shares which has carried them to their highest level. The price fell from a peak of 701p yesterday to close 13p lower at 688p as UBS, the broker, struck the shares off its buy list. Almost four million shares were traded.

reflected on last week's encouraging trading news. It rose 912p to 528p. But there were losses for National Westminster, down 31p to 80312p, and Royal Bank of cotiand, 612p cheaper at

Britannic leapt 6612p to a new high of 870p as the group confirmed that the value of its orphan estate would provide a dividend payment to sharegroup lost £5 million for every time sterling strengthened a cent against the dollar.

Clyde Petroleum hardened 2p to 11812p as Guif Canada's E495 million offer went unconditional after receiving acceptances totalling 21.43 per cent. This, combined with the near 30 per cent stake it owns, raises its total holding to 51.42

Williams Holdings rose op



to 305p. The group, which last week made an agreed £1.3 billion bid for Chubb Security. has been talking to fund managers on any worries they may have about the deal.

Argos stood out with a rise of 2112p at 695p after some words of encouragement by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. Talk of a "buy" note also lifted Reed international 16p to £11.0212.

The bears have won out in the two-way pull over shares of Scotia Holdings, with the price ending the session 2912p lower at 650p

Stagecoach fell 2712p to 692 2p as the debacle over lost trains on the South West lines gathered pace. Brokers now fear that Opraf, the industry regulator, will levy a hefty fine against the group after it was forced to axe almost 300 trains a week due to lack of drivers. The crisis also spilled over into other transport companies with National Express, down 14p at 540 ap, and Go-Ahead Group 812p lower at 48212p.

Morland, the regional brewer famous for Old Speckled Hen, was steady at 592p. Its rights issue to raise £22.2 million has been 95 per cent taken up. The proceeds will be used to buy a chain of American diners from Allied

Domecq, ip cheaper at 430p. Infobank International was off to a flying start on ALM after a placing by Collins Stewart at 125p. The price opened at 144p and after touching 150p reverted to 144p.

a rise of 19p.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices in London enjoyed a firm start, underpinned by gains on overseas bond mar-kets and bigger than expected repayment of debt by the Government. The Public Sector Debt Repayment was £5.8 billion in January, the largest repayment in eight years.

At one stage the March series of the long gilt touched a new peak of £114322 before profit-taking cut the lead to £516 at £11,3916 as a total of 89,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015

rose £1332 to £107932, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 put on five ticks at £104°,12. □ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street consolidated after recent advances and investors' attention turned to mergers and acquisitions. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.70 points lower at 6.981.26.

MAJOR NOISE	
New York (midday): Daw Joges	
Tokyo: 'Nikkei Average	
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Sydney: 2501.7 (+8.5)	
Frankfurt: 32/6.16 (+43.59)	
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Closing Prices Page 31

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Poor investment

IT IS a mystery how investment banking has managed to escape the downsizing and cost cutting that has swept through the financial services industry. Personal banking has become a lean business - chastened by the excesses of the Eighties. Bardays closed branches, invested in technology and sacked bank managers. The result is an operation more like a lending factory than a service business and the 35 per cent return on capital from personal lending is proof of its success.

In a sense, the big banks followed the

example of manufacturing industry in the Eighties, shedding non-performing businesses and outdated working practices. But while retail bankers live in fear of head office efficiency measures, investment bankers thrive, demanding more money, more staff and more perks to produce less profit. No

time and motion expert monitors the behaviour of corporate financiers, or questions the success rate of the mergers and acquisitions team in securing mandates. Investment bankers do sometimes lose their jobs - at least some of the additional £45 million in staff costs incurred by BZW was down to redundancy packages. Yet Barclays is still determined to spend more on a business than is destroying shareholder value.

Money is being thrown at BZW in the hope

that it can buy in talent. The strategy is ultimately futile as it demoralises existing staff. It also ignores the fact that investment banking profits are driven not by ingenuity but by market forces. The fattest returns come from deals that walk in the door, but BZW has suffered a downturn in a year of extraordinary corporate activity.

SmithKline

SMITHKLINE Beecham's results are the envy of the industry. New products are cals Service, the American propelling sales forward, no managed care business, is more patents expire until expanding but not yet profit-able. Smithkline is optimis-2002 and the company has leading positions in over-thetic about DPS and its ability counter products and managed care. Gearing has to replicate the service in plummeted while cashflow and interest cover move in the opposite direction. It all

sounds too good to be true. SmithKline still has troubles. It talks of a turnaround in its Clinical Laboratories division but the numbers tell a different story. Sales are up by only 2 per cent, due entirely to volume rather than price increases. The trading profit is up 7 per cent, mostly due to cost-cutting. Meanwhile, CL's main problem, its difficulty in getting reimbursed by government Medicare and

will not reveal the numbers. Medicaid programs, has not been fully resolved. It is too Until it does, shareholders should be wary. early too tell whether CL is SmithKline's more liability than asset.

Diversified Pharmaceutl-

strength is its new products and the potential of products in clinical trials. This is likely to ensure double-digit growth for many years. In the short-term, however, the shares are unlikely to outper-



Britannic

THE success of Britannic in securing shareholder rights. over surplus "orphan" assets has cast a pall over similar efforts by the Prudential. The latter's shares took a tumble yesterday as Britannic announced an 82 per cent dividend increase for share holders out of a £902 million surplus agreed with the DTL. The problem for the Pru is

that the DTI took a tough line over one of Britannic's funds where profits were historically divided up 90 per cent to policyholders and 10 per cent to shareholders, in the past, Britannic's shareholders have not always taken their ice. Even so, the DTI has decided that this surplus, estimated to be £58 million, cannot be reclaimed by shareholders. Britannic has said it will only reopen discussions on this particular surplus "in the event of any future clarification of indus-

A DOMAR RATES

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That clarification is likely ... to come only if Prudential decides to challenge DTI policy. The Pru has every incentive because the bulk of its estimated 55 billion orphan surplus comes from funds structured under the same 90:10 proportions. However, it faces a difficult task because of an awkward precedent set by the Pearl, which failed to secure from the DTI as much as the

market had hoped. It will now be difficult for. the Pru to fight the DTI line. Nevertheless, its shareholders will demand action - if sary a legal challenge to the DTI; an option unpalatable to other insurers.

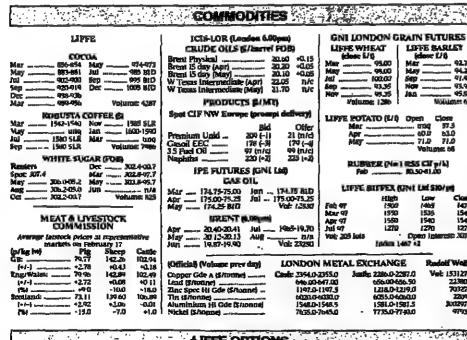
Clyde Pet

NOTWITHSTANDING the quixotic attempt by Clyde's Dutch partner, SHV Energy. to scupper the bid at the last minute. Gulf Canada has won its prize. SHV's motives are obscure but the company clearly felt that its relationship with Clyde in the Netherlands was worth a £5 million bet. In hindsight, the prize will go to those inves-tors who will cash in capital gains of 200 per cent over the space of 18 months.

In the circumstances, it is a credit to Clyde's management that so many investors chose to spurn the Gulf offer which was buoyed by a heated oil sector and frothy crude oil price.

Those investors who chose to stick with management cannot have been unaware that the futures market is anticipating a rapid fall in the oil price from \$23 to \$18. Their concern may have been not that the bid was too low but that opportunities to reinvest cheaply in oil stocks are almost non-existent. The entire sector is trading on racy premiums to net asset value and many investors will be only too aware of the potential fall-out for oil shares had the Gulf bid failed.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



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Frank in ring for new home

FRANK WARREN could be moving to a house near you. The boxing promoter disqualified from serving as a company director for seven years, in the face of allegations including trading while insolvent, has put his gaudy pile on the

market for £950,000.

Dubbed "My Little Pony House" by locals. because of its turrets and luminous pink decor, this is where Warren recovered from a near fatal shooting. The Hertfordshire house, advertised in Country Life. through Savills, boasts a swimming pool, gym, sta-bles and three paddocks.



Warren: seeking new residence

Dynamic duo DAVID BUCHEN is to

join NatWest Markets as head of global foreign exchange proprietary trad-ing. Based in the US, his boss will be long-time buddy. Howard Kurz, managing director and head of lobal foreign exchange. The two met 15 years ago at the Bank of America; and Buchen went on to deliver a speech at Kurz's wedding. The duo will have to wait until the end of next week, however, to celebrate their reunion at Le Caprice.

MARTIN TAYLOR was in bullish form yesterday. Asked whether Barclays Bank was likely to join its competition and jump into bed with a supermarket, the chief executive said: "We're not interested in forming a partnership with any other brand name. We think it might Puh-lease.

Fast lane

Q 1 -2- 3

A RECENT scene outside Warburgs brought memo-ries of the Eighties flooding back. The arrival of three new Porsches forced traffic to an abrupt halt. However, senior salesman Paul Ferry was unable to pick up his Porsche. The poor chap was too busy soaking up the sun in

Women only

AN invitation to meet the Governor of the Bank of Finland and the Firmish Minister for Employment and visit Lapland is strictly for women journalists only. The Governor and Minister, Sirkka Hamalainen and Liisa Jaakonsaari, are women .. and interviews will be taking place in a sauna.

Royal memory

CHRIS MATTHEWS will be remembered at Shandwick as the man who almost married Diana Princess of Wales. The departing chief executive was chosen by the Daily Star five years ago as a possible new partner. The lovelorn Princess's personal details were fed to the Dateline computer under an assumed name and Matthews, described as a well-heeled highfiyer with a passion for beautiful blondes, turned up as the ideal match.

The Times challenged Shandwick to a football match over the weekend. True to form, the City PR firm turned up four players short. And the outcome? Three goals to two

for The Times. MORAG PRESTON

Talking telephone numbers to put your letters on the line

Nifty operators are hoping to make a fortune

by selling on figures, says

Tom Maddocks

ack in the Fifties, gentrel ladies would telephone each other from exchanges called MAYfair or ABBey, while famous numbers, such as WHItehall 1212 for Scotland Yard, were much easier to remember than the ever-

lengthening strings of digits we have to cope with today.

All that changed with the arrival of Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) calls in the Sixties, and the growth in telephone usage that meant the need to use number combinations with no sensible alphabetical equivalents. New phones were fitted with numbers only, and the letters gradually disappeared from use.

Now, however, they are making a comeback; you will find them on most new phones being sold. A number of young men believe this simple fact will make them very rich indeed.

The idea is to follow a well-tried

business practice in the United States, where exhortations to "dial 1-800 PIZZA" or "1-800 FLOWERS" are common. The biggest player in the market is the Personal Number Company, which floated on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in September, with a market capitalisation of £10.23 million. It markets numbers beginning with the digits 07000, acting as a service provider for Vodatone, to whom the series has been allocated by Oftel.

PNC's initial sales pitch focused on personal numbers staying with an individual for life. They can be switched through from home to office to mobile at will. For this privilege, callers have to pay a higher charge rate, 14p a minute in peak times, 8p a

minute in off-peak. However, the focus has recently switched to selling number combina-tions whose alphabetic equivalents spell particular words. The issue is not whether these numbers have a value, Gereny Thomas, PNCs founder and chief executive, mainteins, "but of how much people will pay once the idea takes off."

Mr. Thomas has already made one fortune from the communications business, founding the Carphone mobile phone group and subsequently selling his stake to Cable and Wireless in 1988. Clearly he now believes another tidy profit is in prospect, although Personal Number Company shares have dioned from 66p at flotation to a recent 52p after a cautious interim statement. They had touched 103p in extremely thin volume.

Sales have been modest until now, with 15,000 subscribers connected by PNC since January 1996. However, interest looks set to explode if Britain follows America, where telephones with letters as well as numbers are once again becoming widely used.



Geremy Thomas, the founder of PNC, is number one in the market

believe they will be able to sell on later at a huge profit. PNC and its 250 dealers are selling most six-letter combinations for between £120 and £250, with a higher rate for specially attractive combinations such as 07000 ONLINE. On top, there is a monthly service charge of £6. Speculators are now asking £5,000

The market is now being lcick-started by the entry of speculators, buying up letter combinations they SALLY or STEVE with the first letter of your surname can be had for a more modest £295 while they last. Words with more than six letters can be allocated; rather disconcertingly though, you are connected before you have finished dialling.

A typical speculator is Adrian Berry, 33, a computer consultant from Berkshire. He has bought 65 numdespite some tempting offers. They include 07000 MIDLAND, NAT-WEST, DIGITAL and ATANDT, all of which he hopes will eventually go

"I was lucky and got in early before they did," he says, "but it is very hard to get in now, as all the big names and obvious combinations have been taken. There are lots of people up and down the country brainstorming, and trying out different numbers to see if they have already been taken. Many of my lines ring several times a day."

Mr Berry says he has received everal serious offers at around the El0,000 level, but is hanging on in the hope that prices will escalate as companies recognise the numbers' commercial value, and in some cases the potential for embarrassment if they fall into the hands of rivals. "I was approached for 07000 AMTRAK today for instance. But in a year the going rate may be more like £100,000."

Nimbler companies, such as Virgin, managed to reserve their own alpha-numeric combinations before others thought of trying to cash in. Few are yet marketing to the public this way, although the idea is catching on at the ritzier end of the motor trade. 07000 PORSCHE and VOL-VOS are both in use. A west London travel firm is using 07000 SAFARI.

Direct Line, the telephone-based insurance group, has reserved 07000 DIRECT for future use. The company was unable to confirm rumours doing the rounds among dealers this week that a rival direct insurer has already unsuccessfully offered to buy it for

rices do seem to be steadily moving higher, though. This week, Alistair Reynette-James, a west London James Bond fan, hit the headlines by selling 07000 007 007 to a private detective agency for £50,000.

Darlington-based Liam Green and his partner, Norman Kennedy, trading as 21st Century Communications have upped the ante considerably by putting the number 07000 MILLEN-NIUM, which they had reserved early last year, on sale with a £1 million

price tag.
This figure caused hollow laughter among others in the industry, but the pair believe they may already have a buyer. "Someone has phoned from The Netherlands saying he represents an international company which may offer the asking price." Mr Green says. "We are waiting to see if they follow it up."

These numbers, though, may not be quite the unique asset their proud owners believe. BT, for instance, has recently launched its own personal number series beginning with 07171. There are other codes starting with 07 which can be used with letter combinations," says Mr Thomas, "but we believe we have a big advantage by getting in first with 07000, the most

memorable code." What is hard to discern among all the froth and excitement is just how many serious buyers there are for these series, as opposed to speculators selling on to each other in the hope of fabulous profits that may never

contribution to the UK econo-

my. It is seen overseas as a

wealth generator. Londoners

put in more than they get out.

But try telling that to someone

on a bleak council estate in

Middlesbrough." This week

London First launched a cam-

paign for more investment in

London's Underground sys-tem, determined to make this

Both the CBI and London

First argue for better co-ordina-

an electoral issue.



HARRIS

Weighing the 'weightless economy'

That has Yasuo Hamanaka in Governor of the Bank of England? Simply that both have confessed publicly that they were wrong about Hamanaka's error about copper prices has cost his \$2.6 billion, and cast a cloud over the London Metal Exchange. The Governor's forecasts for average inflation have, by contrast, simply left him looking provisionally a little silly. But both of them may have made the same fundamental mistake: living in the past. It used to be safe to say

that faster economic growth would lead to faster inflation, led by commodity prices; but the experience of the 1990s suggests that this law may have been repealed. So what, you may ask, is new? It is more than a year since Roger Bootle of HSBC published a whole book about the end inflation, and the financial markets are slowly adjusting to world of more or stable prices. However, it is one thing to notice that we are off trend, and quite another to suggest that the change may be permanent. It is only recently that Alan Greenspan has made it respectable at least to play with such an idea, and only now that the Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin has produced a catchphrase for

What the Bulletin means is that economic activity is increasingly taking forms which are virtually impossible to measure. You can weigh widgets or cakes, and construct a price index though this is probably misleading, as Greenspan argues, because it takes no account of improved quality. You can count haircuts or transport services even though they have no material content, and estimate output and productivity. But what of goods which exist only in the minds of the buyers? (Consultancy services are one example, the use of the Internet a trendler one.)

the rest of us to latch on to:

the weightless economy.

Such things account for a significant part of what we call economic growth; and that is a horse of a different

The miners of Chile and years before it caught the eye of the more wide-awake ocutral bankers. All through the 1980s the prices of industrial raw materials fell further and further behind expectations, as they failed to repond to booming output. This change was the undoing of all who relied on history to repeat itself: near-ly all the banks in Texas, the International Tin Council. and now, nearly. Sumitomo. The Conference Board, a US industrial think-tank, recently surmised that this is the main reason for the end of inflation, always led in the past by raw costs. Maybe: it takes time to be sure of

an historic tide. Meanwhile, the central banks face another problem: not only can they not be sure what future prices trends are likely to be; they cannot really be sure of anything. Consider: a economic model is built by applying higher ginal changes in output, prices and efficiency. As economic visibility gets poorer, however, these marvinal measurements get more and more imprecise, until the whole model looks more and more like a medieval map, distorted in shape and full of terrae incognitae What is most galling, per haps is that technological change is not only make it harder and harder to measure output, but harder and

o how do you make monetary policy. The real world answer is guesswork. This answer has proved acceptable in the US, where Alan Greenspan has built such a reputation for judgment that even when he proclaims his ignorance, they will take his word for anything. It is becoming acceptable in London, where markets have been finding. against their instincts, that Kenneth Clarke's hunches are worth more than the Bank's model. Across the Channel, the

harder to measure money.

Bundesbank has built its reputation on rigid enforcement of some law or other. Dare it now confess the

extraordinary attitude of the

Government towards railways: we are told it would

open up the system to competi-

tion, and then franchises are

awarded to the railway's chief

(public transport) competitor. Can Mr Bennett's wish be

other than to protect his

national coach market at the

expense of a mere rail route

and how can this be in the

public interest?

Yours faithfully

BARRY S. DOE

Moordown.

Bournemouth.

25 Newmorton Road,

Millennium focuses attention on constructing a vision for London

Sara McConnell looks at a study aimed at There's nothing to see but contaminated mud," confessed the Greenwich improving the capital's world city status Council official as the coachful of European urban planning

specialists drew up by the barbed wire fence separating the future millermium exhibi the largest urban development tion site from the access road. research project to be carried Behind the fence, huge excavaout in any city. The 18-month-long London Study has been tors were churning up heaps of earth. Between two derelict buildings on the other side of the road, Canary Wharf rose in partly funded by the European Commission, which has contributed EII0,000 of the total The millennium site, which £500,000 cost. The Corporation has just survived a bruising political battle over funding for of London has contributed £50,000. The aim is to develop a clearing the former British Gas "vision of London" as a liveable land and building the proposed exhibition dome, was part of a and workable city. More widely, the research findings on London will be used as a

whistlestop tour of London arranged by the Association of London Government for invited urban experts from Berlin, Barcelona and Glasgow. The three-day trip did not feature any areas normally found on tourist itineraries. Catford, Deptford, Woolwich, Stratford, Beckton and Park Royal replaced the Tower of

London and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace as the main attractions. What the association wanted to show its visitors was the progress of various urban regeneration schemes across the capital, where redundant warehouses, factories, railway lines and industrial sites were being converted to new uses to generare jobs, housing and transport links. The Greenwich millennium site and its vital new Jubilee Line and Docklands Light Railway links are just some of the most high profile schemes being developed by partnerships of public and The Greenwich millennium scheme is among those involving the public and private sectors private-sector interests.

European model for regenerat-The research will be taking place against a backdrop of intense debate over the future of London in the run-up to the

what the association claims is general election. Conservative plans for privatising the Un-derground have provoked more heated arguments over the need for more investment in the capital's ageing infrastructure. High unemployment, poor housing and crime in some parts of the capital are a widely recognised problem. The association, which repre-

sents London's 32 boroughs and the City Corporation, is the nearest thing to Lundon govern-ment under the current system. It is setting up a steering committee to co-ordinate the London Study. The Confeder-ation of British Industry and London First, the private-sector campaign group, will take their

places on the committee alongside representatives from the boroughs, central government, the voluntary sector, training and enterprise councils and an observer from the European

The private sector and business representatives say they are keen to be involved in the study. But they are also wasting no time making clear their concerns about the perceived shortcomings of London's physical and governmental structure and the posentially detrimental effect these could have on London's status as a world city. London First argues: "London produces 19 per

which the London Study will be officially launched. Those involved with the study hope its backing from Europe and its wide range of participants will generate raluable information and at least ensure it a hearing. Archie Galloway, deputy chairman of policy and resources at the Corporation of London, said: "What will be produced will be a better understanding of how things tick in London." He added: "If we produce a sufficiently robust report, we hope the Government of the day will look at it."

But all those involved in the study are aware that the results of their work could end up gathering dust unless the Government of the day has the political will and, more importantly, the money to implement the study's recommendations.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Expressing a view on travel costs From Mr Barry S. Doe This again demonstrates the

Sir, I note that Kevin Bennett, marketing director of National Express, wishes the public to know that the coach is the cheapest way to travel from London to Edinburgh (Business Letters, February 5). We must assume that he would similarly like the public to know that the coach is the cheapest way to travel from London to Leicester, Derby. Nottingham and Sheffield.

The problem is that National Express owns the rail franchise on the latter route. What does Mr Bennett wish his staff at those stations to advise potential travellers?

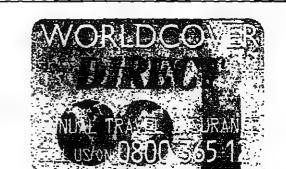
tion of transport planning and development of capital projects. although they are cautious Woolwich perks not about the prospect of an elected worth the candle mayor or a GLC Mark Il. The planners now have until From Mrs Norma Teakle next month to produce reports on possible ways forward for the Sir. It's not fair! "Henry the capital. These will be discussed Cat" and all his friends and at a symposium next month at

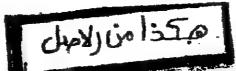
everyone at Woolwich for Kids have sent my daughter, Caroline, a birthday card (and have done for 12 years). They haven't ever sent me one and as far as the Woolwich is concerned, as First Named Person on her Woolwich for Kids account it's me (not her) that's eligible for shares in the forthcoming transfer of the Woolwich Building Society. So I should get the birthday card and not Caroline. Unfortu-

nately, because I have more than one account with the Woolwich I shall only be entitled to one Additional Variable Distribution. Point of interest, when I

opened accounts for both my children no one asked me if I wanted them in their names only and it was the Woolwich who put my name first. Please let John Stewart

(chief executive of the WBS) know that my birthday is August 4. Yours faithfully NORMA TEAKLE. Yew Tree House. Wedmore.





30 EQUITY PRICES	THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1997
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Jane Brennan, Personnel Administrator, PolyGram International, 8 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4JU. Fax: 0171 747 4491 to arrive not later than Monday 3rd March 1997.

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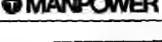
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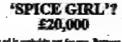
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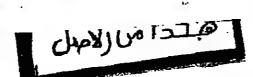
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Act, the proposals of the local authority had to command the

greatest respect and consideration from the court.

although he summarised the evi-dence in detail, had not assessed

carefully the case which the local

authority had advanced as the main plank for its care plan. He

did not explore the question of

whether there might be some difficulty arising from the boy seeing the girls when the mother did not, neither did he put into the

scales the fact that contact to the

Moreover, given that he was

placement, the judge before making such a strong order in carrying out the balancing exercise should

have expressly dealt with the various advantages which continuing contact by the two girls to their mother might have brought

Furthermore, in this case, con-

tact was not a matter of degree within a proposed framework. The

judge took a course which for the

reasons given by Mr Justice Ewbank in In re CN was in any

event ill-advised but in fact necessi-tated that a fall-back situation of

adoption, with contact terminating

on placement, became the sole permitted object of the care plan,

replacing the primary long-term fostering proposal with contact to

Given that the judge was to

make the care order then, follow-

ing In re J. in order to avoid a clear

inconsistency between a reajor part of the care plan and his order

minating contact on placement

mother had recently improved.

in the instant case the judge,

Asylum seekers have a right to assistance

Fulham London Borough Council, Ex parte M Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council, Ex parte P Regina v Westminster City Council. Ex parte A Regina v Lambeth LBC, Ex

parte X Secretary of State for Health. interested party Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Henry

Judgment February 17 Persons who had applied for political asylum after their arrival in the United Kingdom and were thus excluded from a right to income support or housing benefit were entitled to seek assistance from local authorities under sec-Act 1948, provided they fulfilled the relevant criteria.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing appeals by three London local authorities and the Secretary of State for Health against a decision of Mr Justice Collins (The Times October 10, 1996) granting four separate applications for judicial review by applicant asylum seekers against local authorities refusals of assistance under section 21(1)(a) of the 1948 Act as amended by the Local Government Act 1972, the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, th children Act 1989 and the National Health Service and Community

Section 21 of the 1948 Act, as amended, provides: "(1) Subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Part of the Act a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state, and to such extent as he may direct shall, make arrangements for providing: (a) persons aged 18 or over who by reason of age, illness, disability or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not available to them; and (sa) resident ... accommodation for expectant and nursing mothers who are in need of cure and attention which is not available to

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Nigel Giffin for Hammersmith and Lambeth; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Clive Jones for minster: Mr Nigel Pleming. QC and Mr Steven Kovats for the ecretary of State for Health as interested party: Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Stephen Knaffler for the asylum seekers.

LORD WOOLF giving the judgment of the court, said the court had to determine whether the applicant asylum seekers were entitled to relief under section 21(1)(s) of the 1948 Act.

he problem arose because none of the asylum seekers claimed asylum at the port of entry. ithough two of them had on the day of arrival. From the coming of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 on August 19, 1996, ther they were not entitled

either to public housing assistance or to social security benefits. Under their terms of entry they were not entitled to take

But it was not the purpose of the 1996 legislation to deprive affected asylum seekers from all the benefits of the welfare state. It was accepted that they could receive National Health Service treatment. The question was whether also entitled to the benefit of section 21(1)(a) relief. The outcome would affect many other asylum seekers in the same

The relevant provisions of the 1996 Act were enacted to reverse the decision of the Court of Appeal in R v Secretary of State for Social Security, Ex parte Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants; Same v Same, Ex parte B (The Times June 27, 1996). The Act also reversed the effect

of R v Kensington and Chelsea Royal London Borough Council, Ex parte Kihara (The Times July

The 1996 Act had defeated the asylum seekers' entitlement to income support and priority housing. But the 1996 Act did not refer to section 21 of the 1948 Act and thus left intact the applicants' rights, if any, under that section. 1996 Act the applicants would not have needed to rely the 1948 Act.

Mr Justice Collins had decided that section 21(f)(a) did impose a duty on local authorities to provide for the applicants if satisfied they had no other means of support. the instant appeal the local authorities contended that the section had a narrower interpretation than that applied by the judge.

The parties accepted that the instant appeal was a test case, so the court was not primarily concomed with the applicants' dividual circumstances. The local authorities had made interim arrangements to care for the applicants pending the count's

His Lordship gave brief details of the situation of each of the w initials to protect them and their families in the countries from which they had sought asylum. Some were completely destitute and friendless and had been sleeping rough. Charities could provide little help because they were swamped by the numbers

The other aspect of the problem was the effect on local authority finances. There were 50,000 outstanding asylum applications. 40 per cent of which were made by those who had already entered the

The policy of the secretary of state was to allow access to publicly funded benefits only to asylum seekers who claimed asylum on arrival in the United Kingdom or where it was certified there had been a fundamental change of circumstances in the asylum seeker's home country.

The rationale behind the policy

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to be bogus, but it could not sensibly be argued that all claims not so made were bogus.

The horrendous plight of the asylum seekers in applicants' poso could and should provoke deep sympathy, but that could not help in the interpretation of section 21 of the 1948 Act. That Act had replaced 350 years of the Poor Law and was a prime example of an Act which was "always speaking".

Accordingly, it should be construed by continuously updating its wording to allow for changes since the Act was written.

Mr Pannick had submitted that it should be interpreted to reflect the general approach of the Poor Law and the 1948 Act when it was enacted, the noble purpose being that those who were in need should not be without all assistance.

The section in its present form made no reference to duty and said that the local authority "may" make arrangements with the approval of the secretary of state and such an extent as he might

The current approvals and directions were published as appendix I to Department of Health circular MO.LAC (93)10. They approved the making of arrangements by local authorities in relation to persons with no settled residence, directed local authorities to provide residential accommodation for persons in urgent need. They also directed the provision of temporary accommodation persons in urgent need which could not reasonably have been en and approved the provision of accommodation for the prevention of illness.

Those directions demonstrated that the secretary of state was adopting a generous approach to the interpretation of the section. His Lordship also referred to other Acts relating to the provision of accommodation for persons in

Mr Beloff had correctly submitted that the effect of the legislation was to provide three separate enlutions for three different problems: lack of resources, lack of care and attention and lack of

The local authorities argued that the purposes of section 21(i)(a) was not to provide money for those in need of money or to provide accommodation for those who needed accommodation per se but to provide accommodation for those who required care and rich and own their own homes but still could need the local authority's assistance as a means of providing the required care and

From that base the local authorities argued that it was only necessary to take one further and final step. They contended that ekers' needs were for food and accommodation, not for care and attention and con-sequently they could not avail mselves of section (U(I)).

Clearly that was too broadly

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seeker who was old, ill or disabled could certainly rely on the section. But the fact that asylum seekers had a need for food and accommodation which would but for the section 21(1)(a).

stannory prohibition contained in the 1996 Act be met under other statutory provisions did not mean that they could not qualify as having a problem which resulted in their needing care and attention der section 21(1)(a). The local authorities contended

that "any other circumstances" meant circumstances of the same quality as "age, illness or dis quality as general of the control of the control of statutory construction. But their Lordships inclined to the view that that was not Par-

The Poor Laws had provided for assisting by providing work for maintain themselves and their ordships accepted Mr Pannick's submission that Parliament's general approach was that those in need should not be without all stance. If that was right, the giusdem generis rule would not

But even if it were applicable, the the local authorities. It was said that the effect of the rule was to focus on personal characteristics rather than external circumstances of the applicant. But personal characteristics could be caused by

One of the asylum seekers problems was that they had to sleep rough and go without food. That could bring about illness and disability which could result in their needing care and attention

The destitute condition to which asylum seckers could be reduced as a result of the 1996 Act coupled with the period of time which. despite the secretary of state's besi applications were disposed of, meant inevitably that they could

Regina v Birmingham City

Council, Ex parte A (a Minor)

Before Sir Stephen Brown,

Where neither facts nor law were

in dispute and the chief ground for

complaint was the way in which a lucal authority had failed, through

delay, to carry out its duties towards a child in need in its area.

the appropriate course was to seek

dure provided by section 26 of the

Sir Stephen Brown, President of

the Family Division, so held when

dismissing an application for ju-dicial review by A. a minor, by ber

mother and next friend, for a

Council had exted in law in not

expedition to ensure that A

der the complaints proce

[Judgment February 10]

authorities could properly regard as being persons whose needs they had a responsibility to meet under

It followed that in general the judge's approach was correct and the appeal should be dismissed. However, section 21(1)(a) was not a safety net on which anyone who was short of money or accommodation could rely. Asylum seekers were not entitled merely because they lacked money and accommodation to claim they auto-matically qualified under section

What they were entitled to claim. as a result of the 1996 Act, was that they could as a result of their predicament after they arrived in the United Kingdom reach a state where they qualified under the subsection because of the effect upon them of the problems under which they were labouring.

To their lack of food and

their inability to speak the lan-guage, their ignorance of Britain and the fact that they had been bject to the stress of coming to this country in circumstances, which at least involved their contending to be refugees.

Inevitably the combined effect of

those factors with the passage of

time would produce one or more o the conditions specifically referred to in section 21(1)(a). It was for the cal authority to decide whether they qualified The section should enable assis-tance to be provided at least in the case of some asylum seekers. It meant an added burden had been placed on local authorities which

but for the 1996 Act would have been met in part by central government. But that was not a consequence for which the court could give any relief. Solicitors: Mr C. T. Mahoney, Hammersmith and Mr J. Curran, Lambeth; Mr C. Wilson, Westminster; Treasury Solicitor; Clore

Complaints procedure preferred

was placed in appropriate accom-

modation under section 20 of the

The applicant, who was now

aged 15, had entered a psychiatric

mit in June 1995 for assessment.

By April 1996 her doctor had

formed the view that it was

imperative a special foster placement should be found for her as-

However that proved to be

extremely difficult and to date she

remained in the unit, albeit vol-

untarily as no care order had been

made, with her condition deteri-

Mr Ian Wise for the applicant;

THE PRESIDENT said that.

while the application for judicial

review was not to be considered

unwarranted because it had

Mr Roger McCarthy, QC, for the

respondent authority.

Children Act 1989.

acon as possible

council's care plan In re D and H (Minors) have contact to the two girls. (Children in care: Termina

tion of contact) Before Lord Justice Nourse and Mr Justice Cazalet

Judgment February 6) in the course of family proceedings it was wrong for a judge to make an order under section 34(2) or (5) of the Children Act 1989 phasing out contact between a mother and her children when such an order was inconsistent with the local authority's recommendations for the children set out in its care plan

The Court of Appeal so held in-reserved judgments granting the mother's application for leave to appeal and allowing her appeal from part of an order made by the that contact between her and her two young daughters, in respect of whom the judge had made care orders, he reduced in the discretion of the local authority and terminated on their

Mr James Simpson for the mother; Mrs Roberta Holland for the local authority: Mr Jonathan P. Swift for the guardian ad litem.

MR JUSTICE CAZALET said that the mother had three children, a son born in 1989 and by daughters born in 1991 and 1993 respectively. Each had a different father. The mother did not live with any of the the three fathers and none had a parental respon-

In 1994, in circumstances raising serious concerns as to general neglect by the mother, an interim care order was made in respect of all three children. Thereafter the local authority had sought care orders in respect of the two girls and a supervision order in respect

The mother, while not opposing

Delay of itself was not some-

thing which amounted inevitably

to an error in law; it was necessary

to know the precise circumstance

of the delay and in a judicial

review hearing it was not possible

it was not a case where the law

eeded clarification; nor would the

declaration sought have the effect-

of meeting the applicant's needs: it was not disputed that the authority

had a duty to provide accommoda-tion under section 20 of the 1989

The correct approach, therefore, was to seek the alternative remedy

under the complaints procedure provided by section 26 of the 1989

Solicitors: Graham Pearce & Co.

Solihull: - Mr Stewart - Dobson,

Act and that there had

eptable dėlay.

Airminsham.

Eat your heart out Joaquín Cortés...

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to investigate those properly.

priate in this instance.

résolute in her wish to continue to

Order inconsistent with

The local authority in its joint care plan for the girls was firmly of the view that placement in a longterm fostering family had to be its primary aim since that would enable there to be continuing contact between the girls, their

mother and the extended family. In was apparent from his judg-ment that the judge favoured adoption: having made the care orders, in paragraph 3 he directed that pursuant to section 34 of the 1989 Act contact between the two girls and their mother, be reduced authority and terminated placement".

The guardian ad litem was firmly of the view that both girls had such a need for stability and security that the only proper course was to place them for adoption and phase out contact.

Thus before the judge there had been a clear clash of views between the guardian and the local authority as to the desirability of contact with the mother continuing

Before the Court of Appeal. Mr Simpson submitted that the care plan was clearly inconsistent with the judge's order terminating contact upon placement of the girls.
Against that the local authority maintained that the judge was fully entitled to express his views as to contact and its termination and it would simply take those views into account in carrying out

the care plan.
It was not in dispute that the judge had power to make the order terminating contact as he had pursuant to section 34(2) and (5) of

propriety of making such orders in such circumstances could be de-rived from In re CN (a Minor) (Care order) [1992] 2 FCR 401): In re J' (Minors) (Care: Care plan) [1994] 1 FLR 253): In re T (a Minor) (Care order: Conditions) (1994) 2 FLR 423 and In re E (a Minor) (Care order: Contact) (1994) 1 FLR

Further, in In re B (Minors) (Termination of contact: Para-mount consideration) ([1993] Furn 301) Lord Justice Butler-Sloss had emphasised that while Parliament had given the court, and not the local authority, the duty to decide

the judge should have made an order under section 34(4) authorising the local authority to refuse contact. The appropriate course was to allow the mother's appeal by discharging paragraph 3 of the judge's order. The local authority had already issued an application

it to refuse to allow contact. All parties were agreed that in the event of the appeal being allowed that application would gi ahead with any application for further contact which the mother might be minded to make pursuant to section 34(3) being heard at the same time.

to the court under section 34(4) for

Proclivity is not probative

The case of R v Wrighti(1990) 90 €r App R 325) should be more widely known. In it Lord Justice Mustill said (at p331) that in a case where issue was whether the act ed by the complainant ever place it had never been the policy of the English criminal law "evidence is admissible that fendant . . . could be shown. nating articles or otherwise, to

a learning towards such acts." The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Timothy Walker) so stated on January 21, when allowing the appeal of a grand father aged 68 and quasting his conviction at Oxford Crown Court on July 12, 1996 (Judge Corrie and e jury) of indecent assaults on his

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said it

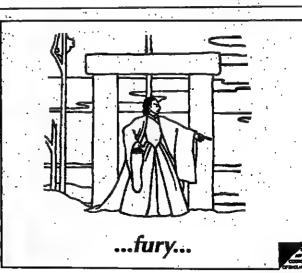
was submitted for the appellant magazines of a pornographic homosexual nature, and questions should not have gone before the That submission was supported

trial. It appeared in Archbold but was not identified there as bearing in their Lordships' judgment

appellant's answers were probative of anything save propensity and, following Wright, evidence of them should not have been

Correction

In Tabarrok v E. D. C. Lord & Co (The Times February 14) the solicitors for the respondents were E. D. C. Lord & Co. Hayes.



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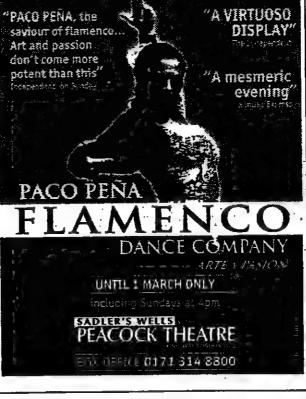
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land of pop and glory

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POP 1

On the eve of the Brit Awards the pop industry is already celebrating, thanks to bands like the Spice Girls



POP 2

Galway plays host to the Aloof, whose sleepy cocktail of trip-hop, dub and rock grooves delights the crowd

THE



RISING STAR

Composer Jane Gardner is Scottish and a woman, but it certainly hasn't done her career any harm



OFFER

Theatre Club members are invited to join in Radio 3's Stravinsky celebrations

On Monday, the Brit Awards will pay tribute to an astounding British success story. Plus, pop reviews

Land of pop and glory

David Sinclair on why the bosses of the popular music industry are

in a mood to party these days

The British music industry, for so long the black sheep of the business community, is at last being recognised as one of the country's conspicuous success stories. Coinciding with the triumph of Spice Girls in America - which this week became the thirty-first country where their debut single Wannabe has reached No I — the publication of the trade figures for 1996 has marked a sea change in per-ceptions of the industry. Whatever happens at Monday's Brit Awards - the industry's annual gong-giving gala at which the nation's pop stars traditionally disport themselves with all the social grace of a baboon colony - the music business has gained dramatic new respect, if not

respectability. The figures speak for themselves. Britain is the world's fourth largest music market (after America, Japan and Germany). While the global music business has generally been flat over the past year, the value of British record sales rose by 6.1 per cent, more than twice the rate of inflation and substantially more than comparable markets such as Japan (3 per cent), America (1 per cent) and France (-0.01 per cent). According to a report in Sunday Business, the British music industry is now worth £2.5 billion a year, generating more money for the econom than shipbuilding, electronic

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1 1 to \$40.

components and water supply. About 30 per cent of the music industry's output is exported, well above the average for the economy as a whole, which is roughly 8 per cent. A 1995 report by British Invisibles on the overseas earnings of the music industry estimated that it made a net surplus of £571 million, equivalent to the overseas earnings of the steel industry.

More difficult to quantify is how seriously the music business is now being taken and its executives recognised as the captains of industry that they undoubtedly are. Paul Conroy, managing director of Virgin Records UK, points out that, with an election round the corner, politicians of every hue have been wooing the industry in recent weeks.

They're all taking the Clintonesque view. Fifty of us went up to the House of Commons the other week to have our Tony Blair chat-ette. Virginia Bottomley has been making speeches at MTV presentations. In all the years I've been in the industry, I've never known such attention."

iven the music industry's continuing strength and vitali-ty (1995 was also a record year), the real surprise is that it has not been taken more seriously before now. Its lack of credibility is part of a lingering mindset in certain establishment quarters that regards popular music as a lowbrow and culturally insignificant nursuit.

synonomous with popular music. According to a recent British Phonographic Industry analysis, recordings by accounted for 78.3 per cent of total album sales. The combined album sales of easy listening, country, jazz, folk, reggae and blues accounted for a further 13.4 per cent, while sales of classical music totalled just 7.4 per cent. Sales of singles, meanwhile, are virtually all accounted for by popular-based music genres.
"Politicians have paid lip-

A bed of English roses: Spice Girls' debut single Wannabe has gone to No 1 in 31 countries, part of a remarkable renaissance in the fortunes of the British pop music industry service to the music industry in the past," says international marketing consultant Jon Webster, But they didn't real-These days the music indus-try is indeed wirtually ly want to be involved. But now they see what it's worth and that it's something we're good at. Also, political leaders are now much more aituned to popular music. Edward Heath

Tony Blair played in a rock band. Popular music is something the new establishment people have grown up with." The other obvious attraction of supporting the popular music industry is that it does not cost anything. Unlike the "highbrow" and other arts, the pop business is perfectly able to support itself. "It's not like Dickie Attenborough turning

up at No iO saying, 'Can we have another £10 million for seedcorn capital to make Brit-ish films? We don't need it."

Dave Laing, a research fellow at the University of Westminster, is one of many commentators who regard popular music as absolutely as the economic wellbeing of Britain. "It's not part of the established arts, with the established structures of support and training. It is music from below, and there are a very large number of young, what we used to call working-class people involved in it. And that is important in the context of

dividing lines between work and leisure."

Stuart McAllister, the chairman of HMV Worldwide, notes that while sales of records by some of our more established acts, such as Sting, Phil Collins and Simply Red. seem to be slowing up, it is our younger acts that have interest in British music abroad. "It seems to be tied in with a fascination with British fashion in a more general sense. When you see new pop bands like Spice Girls, Bush and Worlds Apart doing so well in America and Europe, you feel that something interof Sony Music and chairman of the Brits. "We've been fortunate in that our creative upswing has coincided with a creative downswing in some of the other major markets. Things were flat here three or four years ago when the American music industry was in the middle of the Seattle music scene. Now things have gone a bit flat in America. while things have been percolating at a much higher level here. So now the Americans and the Europeans are taking

what's happening here."

io wunch iis ihr a much closer interest in

■ The Brit Awards take place on Monday at Earls Court. Highlights can be seen on ITV on Tuesday at 8pm.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

Feb 17-22

LONDON Festival Hall

reception.

March 7, 22 ● STRAVINSKY — who better? is the composer whose work has been chosen by BBC Radio of the music of the 20th century, and Theatre Club members are invited to join in the celebrations. We have obtained a limited number of reserved box seats for the concerts to be given by the BBC Symphony Or-chestra, conducted by Andrew Davies, and members will be able to meet members of the

The first concert, on Friday. March 7, comprises Per-sephone, the meludrama set to words by André Gide, and the opera-oratorio. Occipus Res. On Saurday, Murch 22. Stravinsky's opera, The Rake's Progress, with words by W.H. Auden, stars Barry Banks and William Shinell. Tickets cost £11 per person per concert. To book, please send a cheque, made payable to the BBC Symphony Orchestra, to reach Lisa Owen-Jones, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Delaware Road. London W9 2LG by Feb 28

· ADD to your enjoyment of these two magnificent week-ends of music by taking advantage of the Theatre Club's hotel package. On March 7 one night's accommodation, with English breakfast, in a double or twin room at the four-stat Radisson Edwardian Grafton Hotel on Tottenham Court Road, costs £55 per person. For the March 22 concert, two nights' accommodation costs 199 per person. With both packages you will also receive free entry to the Theatre Museum at Covent Garden, a free copy of The Theatre magazine and discount dining vouchers. To book your accommodation

inquiries call 0171-387 9673

ON TOUR ● THIS is Enid Blyton's cen-tenary year, and club members can save 20 per cent on tickets for The Famous Five at: MANCHESTER

Palace Theatre March 10-13. 2pm. 6pm. Tickets normally £5 to £9. Tel 0161-242 EASTBOUTENE Devomine Park Theatre

THE

SAMUEL and Timothy Wast play Hai and Faistaff in Eng-lish Touring Theatre's ac-

claimed production of Henry IV Parts 1 and 2. Members can

buy tickets for EI9 (normally £24) for either play or see both

for just £30 (normally £43). Tel 0171-928 7616

March 3-6. 2,30pm, 6.45pm, Normally £5.50 to £7.50. Tel 01323 412000 Grand Opera House April 7-10, 2pm, opm, Normally £4,50 to £9. Tel 01904 671818

CROYDON Anheroft Theatre May 26-29, 2.30pm, 7.30pm. Normally £9 to £13.50. Tel 0181-

688 9291 GLASCOW April 28-May I. 2pm, 7pm. Normally £5 to £9. Tel 0141-332

please call 0800 335588, quoting TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and phone number to The Theatre Club, P.D. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8/L, or telephone 01:206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general

esting is afoot." "Creativity is a cyclical profuture patterns of work and the continued blurring of the cess," says Paul Burger, CEO Giving satisfaction

mbling onstage at the Jazz Cate, and before he A Jazz Café, and before ne plays a note, Richie Havens goes into a ten-minute rap about his first meeting with Bob Dylan in a Greenwich Village coffee house in 1962. After 40 minutes and half a dozen stories, Havens has not even started his fifth song. As each number averages between three and four minutes, you can tell he talks a lot. But nobody really minds; he is an entertainer rather than merely a singer and they

are all good stories. Yet we could have done with a little more music, for Havens still possesses a fine voice, capable of both improbable sweetness on songs such as God Bless the Child and a velocity grittiness on All Along the Watchtower. And nobody plays an acoustic guitar like him, with his open ninings and hammering style. At first you look around to find the conga player, but there is only Paul Williams, a highly capable second guitarist. The percussion comes entirely from Havens's slapping right hand. He is still unfashionably

committed to political causes and he burns with a mission on Jackson Browne's Lives in the Balance. He closed, of course, with Freedom, his Woodstock anthem, and if you closed your eyes it was easy to imagine you were back in the mud on Max Yasgur's farm.

Woodstock regained

mean Sheik is causing quite a stir in America. In the wake of Alanis Morissette's success, new singer-songwriters have become an almost entirely female breed and the reappearance of the male of the species comes like a rare, out-

of-season butterfly.
Just as Sheik's first single,
Barely Breathing, has fluttered effortlessly into the Billboard Top 30, he was possibly unwise to abandon the promotional round at home for four low-key dates in Britain. But his doing so was our gain.
On a damp night at the

Varsity in Wolverhampton. his warm voice carried the traces of his Carolina upbringing but his influences are unmistakably British. The beguilling melodies, the lush

chord progressions and mel-ancholy lyrics call to mind the tragic figure of Nick Drake. But Drake died more than 20 vears ago and Sheik is very much a voice for the restless 1990s: there is a balance between fragility and robustness, and his lyrics are never self-indulgent.

Sheik brought with him only a percussionist and bassist but he augmented songs such as In the Absence of Sun with a tape of Simon Hale's sensuous string arrangements from his self-titled debut alburn. Yet he also showed an ability to rock out, particularly on the catchy Barely Breathing. His melodic tone poems tread an emotional tightrope but so far he is keeping his footing admirably.

WILLIAMSON | was here to see a group who

WITH a couple of hundred Valentine's-night revellers crammed between its walls,

the temptation to call the venue in the Warwick Hotel the Ballroom of Romance was almost irresistible. But in truth, it was a curious setting for a 1990s dance/rock act to perform. Its half-dusted chandeliers seemed like a relic from a bygone era, the brief liaison between the venue and its guests a symbolic meeting of the old and modern Ireland.

For the quaint, charming ballroom is a reminder of more innocent times when loveless sex and alcohol-induced despair were unthinkable as subjects for popular songs to be heard on the radio.
But the clientele which passed through its doors on this, the second of a four-day

The Aloof Galway

fearlessly document, in songs like Abuse and One Night Stand, today's apathetic, drug-addled society.

This was the third time that Galway had played host to the Heineken Weekender, and despite the late cancellation of its main showcase act, Tricky, it was widely regarded as the best to date.

The Alcof's music is a sleepy cocktail of trip-hop, dub and conventional rock grooves and with last year's Sinking, they produced an unsettling but deeply satisfying collection that is at least on a par with Tricky's Maxinquaye album.

As if to compensate for their rather unimposing stage presence - singer Ricky Barrow

front of a video screen displaying psychedelic images or documentary clippings apposite to each song.
The mugshots for Society were the most visually striking but it is in the lyrics that the Aloof are at their most cinematic. With heartfelt tales of physical and spiritual poverty they render darkness visible with atmospheric keyboards,

spends a large part of the night standing motionless.

clutching the microphone with

both hands - the hand play in

spacious guitar and a sinuous rhythm section providing the soundtrack. After the Scottish leg of their UK tour, they reach London on March 7 and end in Plymouth on March 15. You are advised to get on intimate

terms with the Aloof.

NICK KELLY



techno/rock festival in the city,

Rising stars in the arts firmament: JANE GARDNER

Age: 27.

Profession: Contemporary composer.

Current work: Five of her song settings receive their world premiere with the Endymion Ensemble at the Queen Elizabeth Hall next Wednesday in Passages, a Women's Playhouse Trust presentation on the theme of motlessness.

What's her experience? She studied under Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and James Mac-Millan, and has written for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Scottish National Ballet. Maxwell Davies recommended her for a Gulliver Award bursary for producing a big score. But it spontaneous."

her to Indonesia to study gamelan for three months. "I have to admit it hasn't done me any harm being Scottish and being a woman," she says disarmingly.

What's next? She has received a Scottish Arts Council award for The Twelve Dancing Princesses, a music and dance piece based on the Grimm fairytale to be performed by the Paragon Ensemble in Edinburgh later this year.

What would her alternative career be? Arts administrator, although by necessity rather than choice. "It's one thing being a composer and

young composers which took never gets performed if someone doesn't do the administration and raise a production budget. I'm doing that at the moment and it's a learning process."

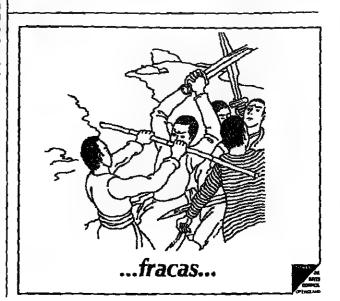
> Where does she find inspiration?" I love working in the theatre, with film directors or with choreographers. I haven't worked with a visual artist and I'd like to do that. I love being with people and communicating. I'm not one of those composers who lock themselves away from the

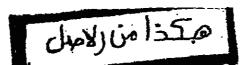
> Long-term ambitions? "I'd like to develop in television and film music, which is more immediate, more



And? "Well, I'd like to write an opera one day."

NIGEL Williamson







CHOICE 1

The South Bank celebrates the music of György Ligeti VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall



CHOICE 2

Ralph Fiennes heads the cast in a new staging of Chekhov's Ivanov VENUE: Opens tonight at the Almeida Theatre

THE



THEATRE 1 Jane Asher joins

the cast in Doug Lucie's play about the excesses of Fleet Street, The Shallow End

THEATRE: Doug Lucie's new parody of the press premiered; plus the return of a Sixties fable



■ THEATRE 2

Murray Schisgal's Luv is an intimate and amusing urban fable, and as neafly. crafted as a Broadway joke

LONDON BOWTHILH COMPOSERS: A westby saces of 12 free compare began locky and takes place on subsequ ays, to comple rehibition Variations on a Therris 150 Years of Breish Composers, Today's rectal toatures songs by Warlock and Delus, performed by two singers from the Royal Academy of Music (Photography Gallery), St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) Today, 3pm

Chairmay .

LOSS AND CLOUDS Patters on for the evening's concert (7 45pm) — the third of eight — celebraing the music of Gorgy Loss. However, then are call takes available to the preconcert recital (6pm) by the premist Pierre-Laurent Armend, who plays Ligeti's complete Etudes. Armand is joined by the soprano Stoylle Etilen to the composer's Mysteries of the Macabre, in the world premiere of a version for voice and plant.

Discrete Economic Hell South Burk. SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 6pm en

WOMEN ON THE VERDE OF HAT Hit Irish comedy by Mane Jones. directed by Parn Brighton, with Marie Jones and Elicen Politick as two worms. devoted to the singer Daniel O'Donnell, and Phelim Drew as the young walter who answers their fantasies Vaudarvillin, Strand. WC2 (0171-835

DAS YOU LIKE IT SEED FINISHED S superbly cast production from this year Stratford comes to London where 4 will for until March Berbloon, Sik Street, EC2 (0171-636 8891) Torught and tomorrow met Thurs, 2pm in rep &

I GUYS AND DOLLS. Return Eyre revives his famous production of the Frenk Louisian musical, melda Staurators recreates her role of Mina Spaumon recreases her role or mile Acielande With Harry Goodmain, Clarke Peters and Joanna Riding National (Divory), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252), Mon-Sut, 7 Tspm; mats Tue, Wed, Thurs, 2pm, Set, 2pm. MEATHCLET, Parned by the entes, loved by the lane, Cliff Richard's musical treatment of Withtening Heights (without London and all continues) netional tour. Halen Hobson plays

resonal our mean receive pays Calty, with songs by Tim Riles and direction by Frank Dunkop. Labotts Apolito, Queen Carolina Street, Hantmannian, We (0774-416 6050) Mort-Set, 8pm Until April 5 HENRY IV PARTS 1 AND 2 Febru and son Timothy and Samuel West play and son through and samula west pusy Falsath and young Prince Hall in the English Touring Theatre production by Stephen Univer Old Vie, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7516) in rep Mon-Sat, 7 30pm, Both parts play on Thurs and Sat, 2 30pm and 7 30pm, Until February 22.

El LAUGHTUM OH 7 Her 22min FLOOR, Neil Simon's lunny account of working among a learn of scriptwriters

NEW RELEASES rcasching excursion into people's ure obsessions from Canch led Jan Sve Everymen (0171-435 1525) ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

e and A Fish Collect W Ceese and A Fish Called Winds Imm. Mith Lynn Kims, Jonne Lee Cures. Director, Robert Young. ABC Bailer Street (1717-1025 1772) Emptre (290-298 990) Cideon Swites Cottage (0181-316 4220) Ritzy (0171-737 2131) UCI Whiteleys (2) (1790-370 2838) Treasters (2) (171-434 (171-370 2838) Treasters (2) (171-434

HAMILET (PG): Lavish, Marei-minded Shakespeare, staged with some panache by Kenneth Branagh, With Doub-vacob and Kara Winsler ios Maytair (0171-369 1720)

◆ HARRIET THE SPY (PG)

+ IN LOVE AND WAR (15): Romentic drama from Richard Attentionough, Odeons: Kexelngton (0181-315 4214 Merbie Arch (0181-315 4216) Emile Cottage (0181-315 4220) UCI TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and emercalment splied by Gillim his

IVANOV: Raiph Fiennes heads a spienoid cast that includes Hamet Walter, Bill Paterson, Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's production of Chakhov's first produced play. Altredda, Almenta Street, N1 (0171-392)

4404) Opens lonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm. Until April 5.5 ELSEWHERE

Bable success for Demogram Hispatic Report of the Demogram Hispatic February States of The Sheeping Beauty, tonight Sat, Feb 28 and March 1 The company is repertore indudes a double bill of Ashton's The Dream and Song of the Carth, with characography by Kenneth Machellan, from Feb 25-27 Hippodyname, Hurst Street (b) 221-622 7486) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Thurs (Feb 20), 2 30pm, Sat (Feb 22, Mar 1), 2 30pm, Urall March 1.

House full, returns only Seats at all prices

br composin Sci Cassar back in the 1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sid Gueen's, Sheitesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040) Mon-Sel, Sprit, mats Wildel 2 70cm Sel Jene

LUV: Revival of Murray Schiegel's

☐ ST NICHOLAB: Brian Cox plays a smag freatre critic who falls for a young actress, which probably doesn't prove a good move One-man play writer and directed by Conor McPrarson, author of last year's well-received three-monologies play. This firms Engage.

GITLDFORD: Prunella Scales, Flichwol Johnson, Saeed Jalfrey open the pre-London but of Sue to On, Paul Scott's enhances to The Raj Quantat. Adapted by Ken Taytor, scripturitier for The Jawel in the Crown. Directed by

Yvonne Armuud, Millbrook (函 (01483 440000). Opens tong/rl, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Set, Bpm; rnets Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Merch 1 Next in Cardill, New (a) LIVERPOOL: Peter Lowson joins the

LIVERPOOL Pear LINEON points in Reyal Liverpool Philhermonic Orchanics for Mistrati's Pierre Concern No 24 Brucker's admosphere Seventh Symphony completes the programme The conductor is Tadasial Ossia.

Philhermonic Med. Hope Sheet (015)-709 3789) Tongrit, 7.30pm. LONDON GALLERIES

dinawan Prints (0171-836 1565) . dinewon Prints (0171-636 1665).
Cattle: John Bresby (0171-435 6860)
Guillery K. Marte Grihe (0171-784 4849)
Goadfre-Institut. Rabul Hausmann:
Printingsprit: Works 1927-1937 (0171-411 3400). Hayward: Howard
Hodgidn: Paintings; Beyond Reason, Art
and Psychicas: Works from the
Printings Collection (0171-283-3144).
Lisson: John (McCachem (0171-724
2739). National: Young
Gamsborough (0171-747 2885).
Royal Assidianty: Eraque: The Lale
Works (0171-439 7439)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerecry Kingston's assessment of theatre showing to London

Ved, 2.30pm. Sal, 4pm.

long-running (BEBs romanics correctly love troubles, the-s-awful troubles but a heppy ending. Nei Marcus directs. Jerosyn Street, 16b Jernsyn Street, 2W/ (0171-267-2075), Mon-Sat, fipm.

of leaf year's well-received three-monologue play, This Lims Tree Bower Bush, Shephards Bush Green, W12 (17161-743-3388) Previous compts and bornorow, Sprt. Opens, Feb 21, 7pm Than Mon-Sat, 8pm Until Merch 22. A INTRESTCAR HAMED DESIRE

Jesura Lange, Toby Stephens, Imagen Stubbs in adroit production by Peter

tats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

SWAGGERS Revival of last year's award-winning trank, furnry and real picture of London's underword by Miles Mahoney Set above a shop dealing in take designer clothes. take designer clothes.

BAC, Learner Hill, Beamson, (IWH)
(0171-223 2223), Opens tonight,
7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 5.30om, Until March 9

WHO'S AFRAD OF Visital WOOLP? Diana Rigg and Dovid Such in Howard Davies's powerful Armeida production of Albee's seeining play. Aldwych, MC2 (0171-316 8003), Mors Sat, 7 15pm, mei Sat, 2 15pm; birdf March 9 2 2 15cm, Until March 22

LONG RUNNERS

□ Blood Brothers: Phoens: (0171-989 1733) . □ By Jerres: Lync (0171-698 5045) . □ Cats Mew Landon (0171-405 0072) . □ The Complete Works 405 0072). The Complete Works of Wilson Sinches and Users of Wilson Sinches and Users of Sinches (0171-494 5070). Greater Carrier Sinches (0171-494 5080). Whertin Guerre Prince Edward (0171-447 5400). Sinches Edward (0171-Tickel information supplied by Sceney of London Thomas

No way to make the headlines

thing. The employees of the unnamed broadsheet traditionally "centreleft" but now being shoved rightwards and downmarket by a multinational called Internews - evoked by Doug Lucie's play certainly enjoy

more exciting lives than me. When they are not sacking each other, they are snorting coke, having sex in front of their colleagues, or swapping hard porn. When I worked on the centre-left Guardian, nobody asked me to orgies in obits. Nor does my present arts editor let me nibble his LSD-soaked sugar-lump before he drops it into his tea.

Nor has Lucie written as trenchant a study of British journalism as he may have hoped. His is a world in which an editor dreams of turning his Sunday paper into a "glossy magazine" with the news chucked out, and an Australian chief executive bandies sentences like "you're talking nine pints of puke" with the reporter hoping to expose his sharp dealing. The Shallow End is far peppier and more fun than Lucie's recent Grace, which hammered born-again religion, or his awful Gaucho, but

I cannot say I recognised the

The Shallow End Duke of York's

That may be because I am an overprotected theatre critic or, as some sadist enviously says, a person who "closes shows and puts luvvies out of work". Perhaps there really are feature writers like Julia Ford's Slater, whose idea of going for a job interview is toinspect her prospective editor's penis and provoke him to orgasm with her dirty talk, and maybe there are editors like Tony Doyle's Kirk, who finds the sight of beggars stimulating. At least they get the play — set, incidentally, during a thampagne-flowing wedding do for the big boss's daughter — off to an emberdaughter - off to an exuber-

antiy cynical start. Cut to the room where a sleszy showbiz writer sounds out a football correspondent about starting a pop-and-fanzine section called Whoosh, while another hack endlessly copulates with a waitress.

Jane Asher appears as an estranged wife with severe points to make ("don't confuse the freedom of the press with the freedom of the people" and Nigel Terry follows as an



Journalistic japes: Julia Ford as Slater, Tony Doyle as Kirk and Nigel Terry as Rees

that the power of Internews will bring about "the end of humankind as we understand. it and, eventually, the end of

How? That's not so clear. It

is airing important issues; but his mix of caricature and earnest pontification is hardly friendly to serious debate, and his loathing of capitalism is such that he cannot anyway goes without saying that Lucie sustain debate for long with-

is splashing about in the "shallow end"? Not only we journos.

BENEDICT 5 NIGHTINGALE:

out going ape. Who, I wonder,

CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE

+ FIERCE CREATURES (PG) Broad

Precoclous get spies of thends and elders. Unstiractive American lamily film, with Rose O'Donnel. UCI Whiteleys (§ 1090 888990) Virgin Trocadero (§ 10171-434 9031)

based on Ernest Herningway's wertime Ning with a Red Cross nurse. With ndra Bullock and Chrs O'Donnall.

CINEMA GUIDE

lines in Leadon and (where discussed with the symbol +) is release across the country

we (1991-888 USA) Virgins Chaises (0171-352 5096) Haysmark (0171-638 1577) Warner West, End SHE'S THE ONE (IS) SIGN but ameble lemly cornedy from Edward Burns, deactor of 7the Brothers

536 6140 Odeone Kenderen (0181-315 315 4214) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) West End (0181-315 4221) Rizzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (

THEES LOUNCE [15]: Save Buscern's vibran' and amusing portrait of borng lives or a Long Island sown. With Anthony Le Paglia, Chice Sevigny, AESC Busine Street (1/17-125-9777) Tottlenham Court Road (1/17-188 8148) Claphem Ploture House (1/17-498 3323) Rizzy (1/17-737 2121) Screen on the Green (1/17-126 3520) Vingina: Fullham Road (1/17-370 2638) Haymarket (1/17-1839 1627) THESES LOUNCE 115); Show CURRENT

◆ FLY AWAY HOME (U). Endeaming tale of orphaned Canada geose, with

Arns Pagun and Jelf Danels. Director, Carrol Ballard Claphen Picture House (0171-498 3323) Odeore: Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) 5 — Co. (0181-315 4220) Witty (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0171-382 5096) Trocadero (0171-484 0031) Warrier (0171-437 4343)

◆ RANSOM (15)* Interrettently absorbing kidnep drama, with kiel Gloson, Flene Russo and Gery Snise. ABC Tetamham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Claphem Picture Hosse ASC TOMBINISM COMP HOME (0:636 6146) Clepham Picture Hos (0:171-498 3323) Notting Hill Col (0:171-727 6705) Odeocus Kensington (0161-315 4214) Lelcester Square (0161-315 4215) Marbin Arch (0161-315 4216) Sudin Comage (0161-315 4220) Screen/Salon Street (0171-935 2772) U/2 Whiteley (0991 5553) Virginia Challes (0171-352 5095 Pullian

(0181-568 1176) RIDNOULE (18): Wittly and diverting conturns pace set in Louis XVI's count, with Farmy Ardent and Jean Rochelost. Berlines (0171-538 SEP1) Chains. (0171-531 3742 Chapterin Picture Mouse (0171-498 3323) Curzon West End (0171-399 1722 Gatte Notting Hill (0171-727 4043) Ritary (0171-737 2121) ScreenyHall (0171-435 3366) WHITE MANY INVESTOR (18):

Communication 71 - 352 5085 Round (0171 - 370 2536) Wil

Underdog John Travolta daims justica from his employee, Harry Belatonte

Love rediscovered to the power of three



THIS pocket-sized theatre, one deep breath away from Piccadilly Circus, is a perfect arena SPRACHY WITHERING play first showed in London. back in 1963. Dick Emery then took the role of the frustrated husband: "I'm more in love today than on the day I married. The trouble is, my wife won't give me a divorce." Murray Schisgai's amusing

piece is no revue, but some thing of the frolicsome selfconsciousness of the genre spreads through the writing and into performance. All to the good, for this is an urban fable, as neatly crafted as a Broadway joke, with a thesis, antithesis and then a synthesis that takes its characters back to the beginning, but happier.

Or at least not dead, for when we first see Harry. woebegone, shambling, his trousers tied with cord, he is Jermyn Street

about to clamber over the side of a suspension bridge and fling himself into the Hudson. Milt (the husband) comes striding past, recognises him as his former golden-futured college pal, and eventually reveals that he has come to meet his wife on the bridge and ... he brings a kitchen knife from his pocket. Inevitably, after Milt has persuaded Harry to chat up his wife — for luv will cure all ills — Ellen reveals that she has come to meet Milt armed with an even longer kitchen blade. The dialogue dances the

story forward, Harry's doleful self-analysis countering Milt's beaming self-approval, and glides into a competitive game of deprived childhoods which the Monty Python team may

skit: "Cap? We used to drink for intimate revue _____ out of a rolled-up newspaper."
theatrical style that was ______ The performances, while re-

maining true to the charac ters, are given a crisp edge that slightly inflates their absurdity. I do not know if it is in the text or in Neil Marcus's sprightly direction that Milt. dusts his wife down before presenting her to his old pal. even producing blusher and brushes to finish the job. A neat visual joke, whoever thought of it. Three spirited performances: Clive Carter as the self-pitying Harry, happiest with his head in a paper bag; Joyce Springer with her. lips that allure and send up. the arts of allurement; and nor, blinking like Bambi in his well-labelled suit and costly -"Smell that" - deodorant. JEREMY KINGSTON

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MUSIC 1

The Houston Symphony, with Christoph. Eschenbach at the helm, prepares for its British debut



MUSIC 2

The London Sinfonietta devotes a weekend to new music, but Django **Bates disappoints** with his contribution THE



MUSIC 3

Philippe Herreweghe conducts a colourful account of Berlioz's L'Enfance du Christ



TOMORROW

John Travolta stars as an angel with a mission in Michael, the week's big Hollywood release

Underpaid and over here

oming from a city that is new even by New World standards, the Houston Symphony is an old or chestra. It was founded in 1913, and its long history has been shaped by a distinguished line of conductors, including Friesay, Beecham, Stokowski, Barbirolli and Previn — giving it strong British connections which will not be lost on the orchestra when it makes its British debut at the Barbican on Saturday. But the band owes much of its current reputation to Christoph Eschenbach, who during his nine years in Houston has created a success story comparable to Slatkin in Saint Louis.

The sound now is rich and well upholstered, but with plenty of individuality that distinguishes it from many generalised American super-orchestras. Ten years ago the situation was very different when Eschenbach arrived in Texas it would have been hard for him not to have improved the orchestra. Morale was so low among the players that some even jokingly blamed their music director. Sergiu Comissiona, for the big mid-1980s bust when the oil market collapsed, leaving stretches of the city boarded up. But just as the Houston economy diversified, Eschenbach encouraged the orchestra to reinvent itself and seek both higher and wider artistic goals. And the players love him lor it.

Among the United States' 20 full-time orchestras, the Houston MUSIC: John Allison on the

British debut of the hard-working

Houston Symphony

Symphony is one of the busiest. Its home is Jones Hall in brash but beautiful downtown Houston, though many of the band's 200-plus annual performances take it elsewhere, from the neighbouring opera house where it plays for six productions a year, to the community outreach programmes in schools throughout the city.

We'd like to be the heroes for the city, along with our basketball team," said one of the players and the orchestra is certainly the object of very tangible civic pride. It needs to be, with a budget of \$19 million this year, of which only 3 per cent will come from public

Can money buy a good orches-tra? Houston, the nouveau-riche capital of the world, ought to provide an answer, but the musicians laugh nervously at the question. Their next three-year contract is currently being negoti-ated, and they are hurt that when the orchestra is playing so well they have been approached for a cut in pay. This year has not been a good one for the boards and players of American orchestras -

several have been on strike, includ-ing the San Francisco Symphony, which downed instruments during its European sour - and the Houstoners resent being paid less than their colleagues in many other cities. The orchestra improved so quickly that pay didn't keep up, explained one musician. "A board member said to us, "Well, we just didn't expect the orchestra to be this good. It's the level of music-making that keeps us here."

Eschenbach to the Houston Symphony? When I came here first as a guest conductor, I saw it as a sleeping beauty, with forces to be awakened and developed. I was offered the job two years after leaving the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich, and I felt I needed my own orchestra again. But most of all. I was interested in being an American music director, having to take care of everything, the fund-raising, the welfare of the players and, of course, the music. Turning the orchestra around took a lot of work, but I think it is now

something very special."
The 66-year-old Eschenbach still makes regular appearances in Europe, and from 1996 he will also be principal conductor of the NDR Symphony Orchestra in Ham-burg. But he regards the United States as home, and works with many of the major orchestras there as well as being music director of the Ravinia Restival, base of the



Conductor Christoph Eschenbach has encouraged the Texan orchestra to reinvent itself and seek higher and wider artistic goals

during the summer. It is a very different musical world from the one he grew up in, emerging first as one of the leading German pianists of his generation and then as a conductor under such mentors as Karajan and Szell.

Although he has conducted the

premieres of many American works, Eschenbach's European roots have left a particular mark on the orchestra's repertory. Many of its recordings feature late Romantic works and the Second Viennese School — and it is boldly focusing on this music during its

five-country European tour, with just one American score. Christopher Rouse's short, frantic Phaethon, programmed in some cities (but not London). Apart from some very Texan friendliness, the Houston Symphony will not be making any national statements. Eschenbach would rather "let audiences hear what we've achieved, what we can do together. We will not be trying to show that we're an American orchestra."

■ Eschenbach and the Houston Symphony are at the Barbican on Saturday

OPERA: Handsome settings but a slow Scottish start

CONCERTS: Showcase for the moderns; disappointment in Birmingham; beautiful Berlioz

The clique that clicks

aming itself after one of those grandly titled television debates, the London Sinfonietta's State of temperature of new compositional activity in Britain and delivered an encouraging certificate of good health. That new music should be flourishing at a time when our political masters seem intent on draining the lifeblood from our cultural institutions is a phenomenon that requires

some explanation. in his introductory essay in the programme, the composes Julian Anderson suggested one reason that was borne out during the weekend: despite the unsympathetic politicoeconomic climate, the human climate remains warm — composers actually talk to each other. If the outside impression is sometimes of a selfperpetuating clique, there is also a genuine support net-work in place, as was evident in a valuable opening forum.

Several of the event's cosponsoring organisations -the Society for the Promotion of New Music, the Sonic Arts Network and BBC Radio 3 among them. - put their resources and expertise at the disposal of non-established composers. The SPNM, we learnt, calls for scores each year and examines every one of the 400-500 it receives. The Sonic Arts Network offers concert, education and information facilities to those interested in electro-acoustic and related forms of composition.

The buzzwords heard on all sides are "diversity" and *open door policy at once, perhaps, an plurality and of past exclusions. Much of this was reflected in the various projects throughout the weekend: composer surgeries led by Param Vir and Diana Burrell; a performance of Fraser Trainers True to Life with the participation of three children's groups; and workshops organised by COMA (Contemporary Music-Making for Amateursi Altoeether some 39 new or

nearly new works were heard. In a London Simionietta concert on Saturday evening conducted by Paul Daniel, David Sawer's Tiroirs and Keith Johnson's Sabotage received their world premieres. The latter, with its deliberate disiunctions and crude effects. I enjoyed less than Tiroirs, whose title refers to the interlocking episodes that cleverly, sometimes humorously, shift the gears of the moto perpetuo passages. Richard Causton's The Persistence of Memory,

State of the Nation Oueen Elizabeth Hall

dream-like experiences, impressed even more than on its first hearing two years ago. Philip Cashian's Chamber Concerto - its concertante element provided by cadenzas for oboe, tomtoms and violin proves a worthy companion piece for the Berg work of the same name, from its opening walking bass to its atmospherically still coda.

The weekend's big disap-pointment? The talented, mould-breaking Django Bates

brought his quartet Human Chain to join the Sinfonietta under Markus Stenz. His three pieces, Some More Upsuccessfully mixed "the brain of classical music with the groin of jazz", as he pithily puts it. But we'll never know. The amplification of his group completely swamped sounds produced by the Sinfonietta's 14 musicians sitting behind. All one could hear was a piccolo, percussion and a mass of noise. What a criminal

> BARRY MILLINGTON

La Chapelle Royale jections from the winds.
The strengths of character-

n ensemble such as the **BCMG/Kraemer** Birmingham Contem-Birmingham A porary Music Group.

Stale labours

which exists primarily to bring new music into the world, has the right to fail from time to time. So it is just bad luck that, having commissioned so many winners since it was founded ten years ago, it has failed twice in three weeks. Peter-Paul Nash's Symphony No 2 is shorter than Gerard McBurney's Desire, but it is no better.

The problem with the latest product of BCMG's Sound Investment Scheme, presented at the centre of another overlong programme in the Adrian

isation in the key roles were well taken by the excellent

line-up of mostly French solo-

ists. The English tenor Paul

Agnew was the only non-

French speaker, but he too.

was convincing in his role as

Narrator, bringing his usual refinement and insight to

Berlioz's wonderfully flexible

vocal writing. Véronique

Gens was gently expressive as

Mary, Olivier Lallouette her

stalwart Joseph, and Frédéric Caton a genial father of the Ishmaelite family, while Lau-

tent Naouri's Herod erupted

in an outpouring of anger and

fear. Herreweghe did his best

to bring out the beauties of the

score, though I longed for a dash of the Norrington flair.

Tess Knighton

not have to offer new sounds. new techniques or even new material, but it must, surely. display some evidence of fresh

thinking. Take Nicholas Maw's Ghost Dances - one of the more successful of the older pieces in the concert: it is quite conventional in harmony; but it is inspired by such an individual aural imagination, motivated by such captivating rhythms, coloured by such sensitive scoring that it sounds consistently and engagingly like nothing else.

Nash's Symphony No 2 is basically another conventional piece, it is also primitive in technique, heavily reliant on the elementary stock-in-trade of both instrumental and vocal sounds, texturally confused where the two of them mix, laborious in construction, insufferably crude in its culminating use of percussion, altogether bereft of any idea fresh enough to capture the initially willing if ultimately reluctant ear. Never having dreamt of the tropical island paradise for which the work is said by its composer to be a metaphor, maybe I don't have the imagination to meet it halfway. But I suspect that in spite of the advocacy of conductor Nicholas Kraemer and the participation of the City of Birmingham Youth Chorus in uttering lines from Auden and Stevens - halfway

wouldn't have been far enough. GERALD LARNER

A sparkling double act: Lisa Milne as Adele with Ailsa Mooney as her sister, Ida Porridge with cream

SO LONG as it is party time, Scottish Opera's new Fledermaus glitters away. Kenny Miller has devised a handsome setting at the Thearre Royal for Prince Orlofsky's champagne reception: a series of arches, covered in green creeper and bright lights, disappears into the distance, Giles Havergal, taking an operatic break from the Citizens' Theatre, wisely tacks Johann Strauss's flimsy Act III on to the end of the Orlofsky diversions. The drunken revellers stagger though a starlit dawn towards Governor Frank's

once there Frosch's rambling reminiscences have mer-fully been cut. They can turn a long haul. Fledermaus into a long haul. Strauss only wrote one big number for the last act and Havergal wisely wraps up proceedings fast.

But he needs to get more life

Die Fledermaus Glasgow

and jokes - into Act I. Studgy conducting from Nich-oles Braithwaite, in an inauspicious debut with the company, did not help. The Scottish Opera Orchestra, with the strings especially poor, served up lumpy Low-lands porridge instead of Vi-ennese whipped cream. With the temperature in the pit so tepid the principals took time to establish themselves.

In David Pountney's English version von Eisenstein is a builder, and not a very tasteful one to judge from the gross pink peonies covering the walls of his living room clever Miller again. Peter Evans makes him a pleasant, lightweight character who is never going to be a match for his wife. Similarly Richard

...forgiveness...

Coxon's Alfred, despite dis-patching one tenor favourite after another, is unlikely to make top of the bill at the State Opera. Even Frank (Andrew Slater in diverting form) is another blunderer as he whisks off Alfred to his nick or "aviary", where presumably

all the inmates are doing bird.

the Viennese bourgeoisie are a

The Havergal thesis is that

bunch of failures, especially the males of the species. They may treat their women as baubles but they are the ones who are ultimately dangled on a string. Lisa Milne's Adele is the first to make this clear, a pert and plump parlour maid as sure to get her own way in the end as Figaro's Susanna. She is an expert comedienne, especially in her Glaswegian Act II double act with sister Ida (Ailsa Mooney). She snaps out her "I want to be an actress" aria with great aplomb and, as she goes off with Governor Frank at the end, she is clearly another one destined to reach the footlights via the law.

Janis Kelly took more time to breathe life into Rosalinde. The soprano was hard and scratchy to start, but she dazzled finally with the csardas, sung in Hungarian -or was it Pountney-speak? In any case surtitles flashed up in one the production's best jokes. Arme Howells made no attempt to turn Orlofsky into a 17-year-old princeling, contenting herself with an oldfashioned music-hall drag act. a Burlington Bertie from Minsk. After a cautious start she got going once the royal

champagne began to flow. JOHN HIGGINS | with its vividly remembered

A sublime period piece

Barbican

bassoons cut plangently

through the texture, the clari-

nets added a much more

clearly defined centre to the

overall sound and the flutes

shimmered in their remark-

able duet with harp represent-

ing the entertainment pro-vided by the Ishmaelites during the Holy Family's

waste of good musicians!

To one could dispute that Berliou's L'Enfance du Christ is a work of great beauty, full of sublime moments. David Cairns has recently argued for the importance of periodinstrument performance in the face of increasing homogeneity of tone among modern symphony orchestras, and there is no doubt in my mind that only through attempting to reconstruct something of Berlioz's sound world can we truly appreciate his originality. Thus the contribution of the Orchestre des Champs-Elystes, playing on instru-ments that Berlioz would have recognised, was crucial to the overall impression of this performance conducted

by Philippe Herreweghe.

L'Enfance du Christ is cored for somewhat reduced forces with unlimited use of brass, and there is much telling writing for the lower strings and wind, particularly bassoon and viola. Here the strings achieved a mellow sound, warm and glowing, while the woodwinds were notable for the individuality of timbre they retained. The exile in Egypt.
Herreweghe's orchestral team brought out well these colours, intrinsic to Berlioz's storytelling and sense of drama. His choirs. La Chapelle Royale and the Ghent Collegium Vocale, made an equally important contribution, notably in their final, unaccompa nied chorus in which they achieved that rare quality in

music a sense of total stillness. Equally magical were the angelic greetings, well sustained by the female members of the choir, and, of course, that most familiar of Berliot's choral pieces, The Shepherds' Farewell, with some particularly reedy inter-

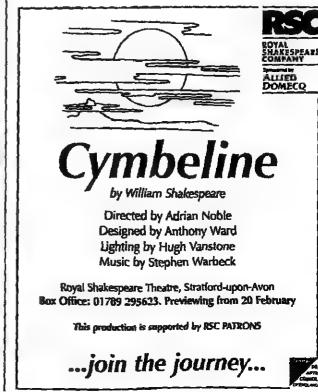
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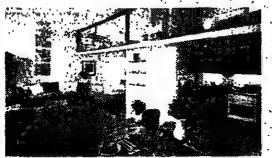
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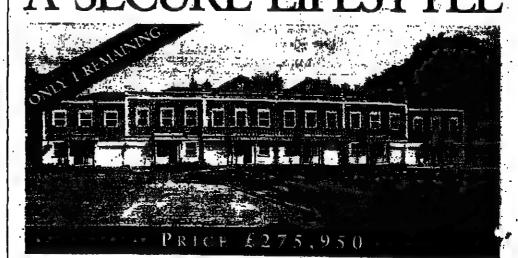
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Forget trendy London, lively Manchester or stylish Edinburgh. Christian Dymond names the best place in Britain to live

ter Jordan and his family have had their suspicions confirmed. Having moved to Dumfries, they reckon that they live in the best place in Britain, and the latest quality if life league table shows they

E)\$

Compilers of the fourth ruality of Life study at Strathlyde University in Glasgow low expect househunters to home in on what are deemed the best places. The study. which took a year to collate, puts the Dumfriesshire town at the top of the list, followed by Livingston near Edinburgh, then by Kendal in Cumbria. Hull and Nottingham are said to offer the worst

quality of life. The 189 towns and cities were judged on 16 criteria,

the house

as soon as

I saw it.

The area is

so peaceful'

including access to healthcare, and their crime levels, cost of living, pollution, shopping facilities, education, scenery, transport, jobs and housing.

Dr Robert Rogerson, head of the group in the university's geograsays: "I would ex-

pect people to look at the best places and their surrounding areas if they are thinking of going to that part of the

country Dumfries has a population of 35,000 and is an hour and a half by road from Glasgow and slightly longer by rail. Such a distance from a leading city is but a trifling inconvenience for Mr Jordan who moved to a one-pub, one-shop village near Dumfries from

Cheshire two months ago. A production manager at the town's ICI plant, Mr Jordan lives with his wife, Cheryl, and children, Jamie, Phillippa and Laurence, in a 200-year-old former coaching inn. The threestorey, five-bedroom, twobathroom detached house with cellar was a bed-andbreakfast establishment when they brought it for £140,000.

Mr Jordan, who leads a somewhat nomadic life, says: I've yet to find a better place in Britain to live. The countryside is wonderful. I'm half an hour from the Solway coast and the commute to work is 20 minutes along country lanes, rather than 30 miles on the M56 and a crawl through

There also seems to be greater emphasis on standards in the education system

At the Solicitors' Property Centre in Dumfries, which claims to handle about 90 percent of homes for sale in Dumfries and Galloway. Bernice Rnickbie the manager, is 'I wanted

talking of a sales boom. The centre handles the prop erties of 28 solicitors firms in the area and usually has 1,300 to 1,400 on its books. The range includes a seven-bedroom Grade: B. listed mansion 20 miles

north of the town at Beattock for £350,000, a six-bedroom Victorian sandstone house in Dumfries for £150,000, and a one-bedroom flat in nearby

Lockerbie for £12,500. There are also a number of what are traditionally called Galloway cottages - whitewashed stone houses with black window surrounds — in the £45,000 to £70,000 range.

The omission from the Strathclyde University survey of other southern Scottish towns such as Melrose, where there is a regional hospital. Jedburgh, Selkirk and Kelso surprised The Southern Reporter, a weekly paper in the central Borders, where



This is the life: the Jordan family at their home near Dumfries. Mr Jordan says: "I've yet to find a better place in Britain to live. The countryside is wonderful"

The newspaper phoned the university soon after publication of the survey buit was told that the towns were too small to qualify. Nevertheess, the places have great charm, are all within 50 miles of Edinburgh (fourteenth-best place in the survey) and are surrounded by magnificent countryside. The whole

of the Borders region has a population of less than population of 105,000 You can still get good value in an unspoilt area, says John Miliar at the estate agents John Sale, which has offices in Peebles, Galashiels and Kelso. For £200,000-plus, you will get a big family house with four or

an acre of ground on an excellent site. These places are at a premium. But there has also been a marked increase in interest over the past six months in eight to ten-bedroom bouses in

five bedrooms standing in half

buildings. Many of these properties are going to people from the South who have at last been able to sell their proper-

A large country house near. Hawick with ten bedrooms, five bathrooms, a garden cottage, stable block and tennis courts in 12 acres of land with outline planning permission for homes on two sites is with John Sale at more than £300,000. For a third of the price, there is a four-bedroom. two-bathroom country cot-

tage, ten miles from Jedburgh. The rail link through the central Borders from Carlisle to Edinburgh was closed in 1969 and though there are long-term hopes of reopening 33 miles of it from Galashiels to Edinburgh, there is still the East Coast route through Berwick-upon-Tweed in England. Edinburgh is about 50 minutes one way and London

under four hours the other.

Berwick's proximity is a

barrister and chartered surveyor who, since he moved to the Borders in 1995, has chosen to take a 3/2-hour taxi and train trip to Manchester rather than use the car when attending his specialist com-

mercial chambers. His three-bedroom castle lodge - set in an acre of ground - cost about £150,000. he sandstone property with its crow-stepped gables was renovated eight years ago. He says: "I wanted the

house as soon as I saw it and the fact that I am so far from Manchester is not a bother. Living here does not interfere with my practice and this is such a beautiful and peaceful part of the world."

● Copies of the Quality of Life report, EW including p8p, are available from the Department of Geography, University of Strath-ciyde, 50 Richmond Street, Glas-Solicitors Property Centre, Dun-fries (01387 252684); John Sale, Galashiels. 01888 75.00. gow GI IXN (0141-548 3037):

A land overrun

not only is there no peace for the wicked, there is precious fittle respite from traffic noise for anyone at all in England now-It is probably no coincidence that the best places to live, according to the latest guide to the quality of life in various places in England, are those where there is the least traffic.

areas overrun by vehicles. These maps have been com-piled by the Council for the Protection of Rural England and compare tranquil areas in the early 1960s with information available since the early 1990s. They show you now have to go a long way to get away from it all in England, unless you live in

the far North or extreme West. As the political debate intensifies over what to do about the menace of traffic congestion, the

of the increasingly claustrophobic state of the country. Whereas the 1960s map looks like a series of ink blots, the 1990s chart looks as though an army of spiders has been let loose to spread and link the blobs in a nation-stilling web. The council's definition of

tranquil areas includes those: Three km from the busiest M6, towns the size of Leicester and over, and from the main

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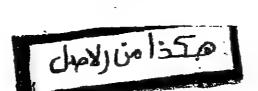
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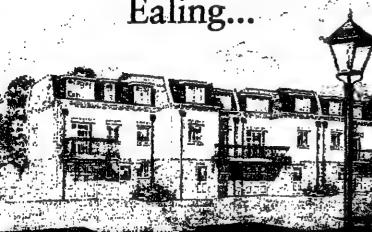
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English Courtvard

Smith persuaded to use skills in political arena

AND JULIAN MUSCAT

JEFF SMITH, the owner of Lochsong and widely respected in racing circles, has been approached to succeed Lord Swaythling when the latter steps down from the British Horseracing Board (BHB) later this year.

That Smith, chairman and chief executive of AIM, one of Europe's largest aircraft interior manufacturers, has been persuaded to consider standing for the post is something of a coup. One of the few significant British owner-breeders left in racing, he has resisted previous efforts to recruit him to the decision-making process. He holds trenchant views on the way British racing is

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BUCKLAND LAD (3.10 Folkestone) Next best: Theme Arena (2.10 Folkestone)

run but has always preferred to express them privately. Lord Swaythling, an industry representative on the BHB, completes his four-year term in June. Smith is one of eight prospective replacements under assessment by the industry committee. Although reluctant to discuss his candidature in advance of a committee vote, Smith yesterday outlined why he had decided to enter the political fray.

"I think the November Budget [which failed to enhance racing's beleaguered finances] provided the catalyst for a number of things," Smith said. "It changed a lot of people's thinking, As a long-suffering individual, the time has come to say enough is

"I can no longer sit back and watch. Something has got to be done. It is no longer an excuse to say it is not my



Smith, left, with Lochsong, has been approached to join the British Horseracing Board

problem. We have all got to do what we can."

Initially approached by Ian Balding, a trainer representative on the industry committee, Smith is understood to be the favoured candidate of Matthew McCloy, the coramittee's chairman. McCloy and Balding are on the fiveman selection panel which, a week tomorrow, is to compile a shortlist from which the industry committee membership will elect Lord Swaythling's successor in April.

Among other potential nominees, Rhydian Morgan-Jones, formerly chairman of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, will attract support but he and McCloy are at loggerheads. So much so that friends of McCloy suggest he might resign his seat on the

BHB if Morgan-Jones carries

In many ways it constricts the BHB's development that Smith and Morgan-Jones can-not both join the board; they are men whose intelligence and commitment are beyond reproach. Lord Zetland and Peter Jones are also due to stand down in June but their successors will come from the ranks of the Jockey Club and Racehorse Owners' Association respectively.

Smith's endorsement for the post would be widely welcomed. He has owned Littleton Stud, in Hampshire, and raced horses for more than 20 years. He would bring a much-needed balance to the BHB board. In addition to his experience in commercial bloodstock. Smith can also

AIM recently announced spectacular results that sent the company's share price soaring.

Elsewhere on the racing front, an international race day, with Dubai Duty Free as one of the main sponsors, is to open a three-day festival at Newbury on September 18. The card features a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe trial and two other listed races, together with a pair of valuable handicans

"We believe the timing is perfect," Richard Pridham, the clerk of the course, said yesterday. "The Doubleprint Arc Trial, over II furlongs, is 17 days before the Longchamp event. Each of the three listed races carries E50,000 in added

3.30 WOODCOCK HANDICAT

Market Rasen ... Going good (good to soil in mindfo 2.00 (3m 1f 110yd hole) 1, MY CHEEKY MAN (R Johnson, 15-2); 2, White Hand (J Deberne, 6-6 last; 3, Merphasse (A Margaire, 11-1). ALSO RAN-9-2 Cober Cree (579, 17-2 Marghano (pu), 10 Bby Burnasse (film, 11 Corray Lover (47), 14-Steis Chugud, 16 Nessia Smr. 50 Phil Gold, From Gurner (pu), Tonto, 100 O K Nesly (pu), 13 rm. Shrick, 19, 34, 24, M. O Nicholeen at Ferrolle Custing, Tota 211,50; \$1.30, \$1.50, \$2.50, \$2.50, OF \$10.10, Title 281-30, \$2.50, \$2.50, \$2.50, \$3.50,

WOLVERSERING

2.00 GROUSE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN

STAKES (£2,804: 71) (11 runners)

SWEEPSTAKES (£2,580: 7f) (8)

3.00 SHIPE HANDICAP

(3-Y-0: £3,388: 1m 11 79yd) (7)

FOOTBALL

Assenal v Man Ltd (8.0) Aston Villa v Coventry (7.45) Derby v Shelf Wed (7.45) Liverpool v Leeds (7.45) West Ham v Newcastie (7.45)

Stockport v Middlesbrough (8 0)

Kick-off 7:30 unless stated

FA Carling Pramiership

Aysenal v Man Littl (8.0)

Nationwide League

OPR v Reading [7.45]

Service and leg

First division

Door-Cole Cup

2.00 Sharpo Wasel. 2.30 DUKE VALENTINO (nsp). 3.00 Brockure Line. 3.30 Prince Danzig: 4.00 Zorba. 4.30 Antonias Melody.

going: Standard Draw: No Advantage - Sis

3-1 Warp Dries. 7-2 Steeps Wassi, 4-1 Spins Deen, 6-1 Who's That Way, 6-Harry's Treat, 10-1 Heatsyard's Fight, 12-1 Contint

BLINKERED FIRST Table: Followstoner. 2 10 Darry Gele, Warning Real 3 10 Red Bean. Webverhemptone 3 00 Aspecto Led. 4:00 Contravers

2.30 PARTRIDGE CLADNING SCIABANTEED

2.30 Spm 4f bit 1, ALJADEER (N Willerson, 7-1); Z. Rustic Ab (P Carberry, 6-1); 3. Metherby Said (B Supple, 4-1); ALSO FAN: E has Cally Herry 2 Delincher (pd. 14 Jacobis Wile (att), 20 Farray Glen (Sin), 25 Delincher (pd. 14 Jacobis Wile (att), 25 Farray Glen (Sin), 25 Delincher (pd. 14 Jacobis Ville (att), 25 Farray Glen (Sin), 25 Delincher (pd. 14 Jacobis Ville (B. 10), 15 W Essaedy at Swell Husen, Tone (2-50, 51.30, DELIN, 51.30,

2.30 2m of chi.], ALJADEST (N Willerson, 7-1); 2, Fundic Air (P Carberry, 6-1); 3, Mathemby Said (B Supple, 4-1); ALSO FIAN:
2 he Carling Hings, 2 Dedinciare (p.g. 14

Jacopia Wile (81), 20 Farmey Glan (51), 25

Calling (81), 33 The Flying Foolmen (p.), 9

carl. 17. hd. G. St. 10. 5 W Easterby at Sheeff Huston. Ton: 27.50; 21.30. E2.30.

C. S. Carling Huston. Ton: 27.50; 21.30. E2.30.

Also RANC 4 Chorus Line: (81), 9.2 Aurale Alice (41), 11 High Perinous, 12 Monost (13). Cit. 10. Cit (W Worthington, 4-1): 2 Tip R - In (N)
Horocks, 4-1): 3, Our Kris (J R Kalemagh, DM 281, CSP 1:18-58, Inc. 1: 18-50 RAM: 5-2 fav Surmerbrill
Special (6th), 3 Robert's Toy (6th), 77 apatich

(P Carberry, 16-1): 2, Henoscis (W Mension,

(7) -301 SEPER HIGH 9 (8.0.8) P Hamberg 5-19-1 (5m) F Number 82
(2) 00-8 BARDON HILL BOY 21 (C.F.S.) B Hamberg 5-16-1 J Seeds 37
(6) 41-5 PRINCE DANZES 35 (CELF.S.) D Number 5-10-1 J Brenchol (3) 35
(9) -182 SECOND COLCURS 21 (C.F.F.S.) M Pair 7-10 K (Rains: 9)
(1) 172 CHEMA CASTLE 9 (C.D.F.F.S.) P Hosters 40-9 S Domine 38
(6) -542 HINGTON STAR 21 (CD.F.S.) D Number 5-10 Harrison 87

7 (4) 201- LENDING SPRIT 144 (D.F.R.S) C Well 58-12 D Harrison 37 (1) -855 DANCING CAVALETS 9 (5) B Hallmand 44-5 F Lynch (3) 6 (1) 65-9 CREUS 40 (7) Mars 5 Water 6-8-7 ... Manter Davyer (2) 67 (4-1) Seaton Hill Roy, 9-2 Super High, 8-1 Chem Cardin, 31-2 Prison Daving, 6-1 Lending Sprit, Minim Saw, 6-4 Second Outcom, 10-1 others.

4.00 PHEASANT SELLING GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y-0: 1m 100yd) (6)

4.30 JAY HANDICAP (23,469; 51) (13)

50-1); 3; Galen (R. Ourweoody, 13-2); 4; Massel Street (A. S. Street, 9-1); ACSD FARK 11-t law May b-May b (f); is Nacion (skir), Mrs. Robinson, 9. Gymonak Tajer (pd.), 10 Sessare, 14 Grand Cru, 16 Extension, Major Yassa, 20 Abstract Hele (Skir), Groce Cart, Passed Pasert, Shooth, 32 Frail Boss, 50 Just Supposen, 65 Bill And Win, 19 sen, 1, 271, 44, 2; 44, R. Woodhouse at York, Tolter, 255,50; 53.00, 592-60, 52.00, 52. Carried Street of 3.40 robustons scorp, Tro: not won (pool of 21,213.33 carmed lowerd to 3.40 Foliumtone 3.40 today). CSF: 1639.97. Traces: E5,176.01.

LSC 100M 97. INCRES D. 170.01.

4.30 (sm 1f ch) 1. RANDOM HARVEST (R. Dumocody, 11-10 bay; 2. Sideochill P. Ferion, 9-1); 3. Whatshood (N. Wittermon, 2-1); ALSO RAN: 10 Claverhouse (sub. 11 lifers Semon (I); 20 Regionali, (4th.), 50 (m. In Cover (cu), Pandora's Price (pu), 8 mn. Nr. Desha, Mini Feda, 24, 28, dist. Mrs. M. Reveloy, at Salbum. Tota: 12.20; 21 10. 51.70; Ti. 80. DF: 510.70; Tile: 57.20; CSF-T1 (M.

6.00 (Im St 110yd flui) 1, AUTUMIN LORD (S Gristan, 6-4 ks/); 2, Guido (N Williamson, 5-1); 3, Allesande (Mr C Bormes, 8-1); AUSO PAN: 11-2 Pause For Thought, 11 Willy Close, 12 Fruitation (Sin), Macy (4th.), 16 Lancker, Prome The Pposine, 20 Sir Boschn, 35 Frugal, Red Closes, Sales Hane, Stan's Profe, The Country Don, 40 Brother Hany (Sin), Careriow, My Variago, 50 Fram Tills. 19 ran, NR-Squeddie, M. 111, 161, 181, 391, P Bessmont in Brandely, Tole: E2-20; £1-20, £2-80, £2-50. DF: 58-60 Troc £13.80 CSF : 28.78.

Jacopot: not won speel of £18,733.86 oxiged forward to Followscone springs).

4.20 (1m) 1, Invocation (Candy Monia, 14-1); 2, Enten (100-30 tw); 3, Robellion (5-1), 11 nin; M, Ind. G I, Moosa, Teles (2-6); 55:60, 2-2-50, 6-3-90, DF 24-30 Trac: 640-00. CSP: 258-35, Transic: 2289-25

4.50 (1n) 40 1, Sociama (M Wighen, 7-1); 2. Fatulous Minto (13-2); 3, in The Money 5-2 ksyl; 4, Canna 5-7 11 6i an; 254, 184, R Flower, Totac Cs 40; 52 00, 52 30, 51 90, 52 29; DF, 530, 10, Tric. 534, 20, CSF: 533,481 Instatt 5221 67.

Placepot: \$120,40. Quedpot: \$8,20.

BANKS'S EFFEWERY LEAGUE: Pre

Lingfield Park

Soling, comment 2.20 (tm 25) 1. Spencer's Revenge (G Bardwell 6-1): 2. Steller Line (13-2): 3. Lefnic (14-1). Assessme Poser 2-1 fax. 11 ran. 14(, 29). P. Buller. Tolie: 28.00; 23.00, 23.80, 25.80 DF 229.20 Telor not won good of 255.32 camed tension to 3.40 Folkestone loder). CSF: £42.28. 1 (7) 0-02 BROADSTAIRS REALITY 25 (A)D,F,E,S) 9 Show 7-18-8 2.50 (im 2) 1, Puntah (R Studholme, 10-1); 2, Secret Aly (10-1); 3, Quiet Arch (7-2) Sweet Supposits 5-2 law, 10 ran. 34, El. G McCount. Telex £15.80; £3.30, £3.80; £2.30. DF: £02.10 Trip: £58.20. CSF£108.25. Tricast £296.80.

2 (16) 450- 8866 WITH THE BAND 103 (D.F.A) B Members 5-73
3 (B. 2-94 RAMSEY HOPE 28 (V.CD.F.S) & Returns 4-9-10 K Fellow
4 (B) 9-11 ANTITRAS MELOUY 2 (4.5) S Bournay 4-9-8 (Ted.

5 Witten 3.20 (1m) 1, Amileo (Dean McKeown, 7-2). 2, tals Froncia (11-10 fav); 3, Talluman (10-1), 5 can. 31, 214, C. Thomson Tote: E4.50; £2.30, £1.10, DF-£3.30, CSF, £7.46 3.50 (6f) 1, V i P Churie (S Sanders. 10-11 lay); 2, Porgotien Times (S-2); 3, Windbon (20-1), 5 ran. 31, nh. J Jenions. Tote: £1.70; £1.00, £2.60. DF: £2.60. CSF, £3.39.

COURSE SPECIALISTS JOCKEYS: Anthony Rood, 5 whereas from 14 rides, 35,7%, 10 fillement, 5 from 26, 192%; Martin Dayter, 3 from 17, 17 SM, D Holland, 11 from 74, 14 9%; R Lappin, 7 from 47, 14 SM, J Tale, 9 from 71, 1927%.

A STREET OF STREET

COFORD DUBL hast Playing Trains & in 13-namer tradition chain here (2m 51, good to solt) on province that, with TETAL Relivence (3m below 15m) and the TETAL Relivence (3m below 15m) and the solt of 12 to Whitpers (15m) at a market potent of Montana (2m, good to solt) on presidence than DREWITTS DANCER about 441 7th of 18 to be Soliginary in hunter classe at Brattons (2m 51 11)4d, good to form) April 96. Secretary: NACEL AND LAD group? SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

FOLKESTONE

NETTIME: \$47 Times Agent, 6-1 (Incidently Commt. 7-1 Fich Back, Austrias May, 8-1 Europ Gale, Wanted Red. U.S. allust

19ME: NO CORRESPONDING LESSING

FORM FOCUS

OMBAY SALE dant Country Mischel 3561 in 8-namer comes hards at Beaper (2m 11, good) so. | taratras fractic at Longistis (2m, good to self) in processing self.

SET WHIC: 3-1 Postupe Shalps, 5-1 Nove Spend, 7-1 Sporg Micho, 6-1 Teoretta, 16-1 Scorpton Sty, 12-1 Piper's Back, 16-1 office:

RETURNS: 5-2 Colord Carll, 7-2 Relate Respon, 5-1 Spettand Lad. Femolois, 6-1 Red Sean, 18-1 Number Gold, 12-1

FORM FOCUS

institution that inspects per power special institution that inspects in 15-more selling transfers have at learning (2m 11 good) ASPIRAREIS WAN heat Summer Ville 13 in 15-more condensate polarys selling handican institution and Prompton (2m 11, good to soil). TATMARN about 25'41 55 of 14 in Loop Magness or classing huntle at Wiscotchin (2m, good to soil). TATMARN about 25'41 55 of 14 in Loop Magness or classing huntle at Wiscotchin (2m, good to soil). TATMARN about 25'41 55 of 14 in Loop Magness or classing huntle at Wiscotchin (2m, good to soil). TATMARN about 25'41 55 of 14 in Loop Magness or classing huntle at Wiscotchin (2m, good to soil). TATMARN about 55'41

2.40 Sprig Muslin 3.10 Retail Runder

2.10 KENTAVRUS WAY.

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

Carl Evans: 4.10 Trilast Lad.

(£1,778: 2m 1i 110yd) (12 naners)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating

GOING: SUFT (CHASE COURSE); HEAVY (HURCLES)

2.10 DAVID REISE HOVICES HANDEAP HARDLE

2.40 LYMPRE MOVICES CLARING HURIOLE

3.10 GAY RECORD CHALLENGE TROPHY

(Handican chase: £2,613: 2m) (7 numers)

(\$2,233. 2m & 110yd) (16 sunners)

3.40 Script

4.10 Tritast Lad 4.40 Milmount Lad

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT This was an embarrassing experience for East-West (me and Brian Senior) in the 1996-97 Premier League.

North-South game Dealer West **4J876** +KJ108 **4KJB78** . N. 4494 40 169752 W **VA84** *A653 +974 · · ·S 411062 **♠K 1095 ₹KJ63 Q2** +995

West's opening was a Weak Two. South (Graham Horsley, for the Macnair team) took some time to bid Four Spades, so when it came back to me I made a dubious double. I hoped that the king of spades was on my right, and that a heart would stand up.

Neither of those things came to pass, but in compensation my partner had a singleton club. When he led the four declarer played the jack from dummy. I won with the ace, and the declarer played the nine from hand. Now I probably should have returned the ten, to tell my partner I had no interest in diamonds. However, that would have lost a club trick if my partner had started with Q 5 4. So I returned the six of clubs. Senior ruffed, and interpreting my six as being a

vague interest in diamonds.

returned the diamond three. I

think that was impractical --

clearly I was likely to have a trump trick for my double, so he should have cashed the ace

of diamonds. All was not lost, however. Declarer played the eight of diamonds from dummy, and won my nine with the queen. He crossed to dummy with a heart ruff and led the seven of spades. See if you can work out what I should have done. Answer tomorrow.

This year, for the first time. both last-round Macallan Camrose matches, England v Wales and Scotland v Northem Ireland, are being played ar the same venue, the Giffard Hotel in Worcester, It promises to be an exciting weekend and speciators are welcome. For further information ring John Williams on 0)296-304414

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MERACIOUS a. Commendable b. Unadulterated

40

c. Marshy COCKALORUM a. The dawn chorus b. An open range flock c. A self-important fellow a. Wind nymphs

b. A death wail c_Magic ONYMOUS a. Not anonymous

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

112142 G000 TMES 13 (FF.F.G.S) FMrs D Returson) R Hall 12-0 _ Research number. So liquing from (F-lot.P-los) number 8F-los) beaten becomes an integral of the E-los) bought of the E-los) beautiful the E-los) bought of the E-los) boug

3.40 STANFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURBLE

The second secon

(£1.640; 2m 1f 110yd) (15 runners)

Long kandicap: Side Bir 9-13. Chingat 9-7, Pansan 9-3 BETTIME 7-2 Script, 5-1 Density 7-1 Precious Worder, 15-2 Valuatine, 8-1 Deathord Belle, 10-1 Tile Tach Piper, 14-1 chans

FORM FOCUS

TR.T TECH R.VER heat Lither Lity 64 or conditionals selling hardrap burdle at Newton Albert (2m. 11, each tem penulibrate start. LEVIN JANNE 2016) 60 of 11 to Reach Money Creek or power hundle at Windson (2m. 90 of) DERISSAV 17 29 of 15 to Realburgs Way or conditionals selling handrap hardrap at Physipho (2m. 11, pond and present the present of the selling handrap best Singhly Special 21 in 8-rumer selling hand-coo hardle at Lingland (2m. 110pd, cont) with DERISBAY (8th better off) Et ath EL HAAL 311 4th of 8 to Kaykoo in selling handles at Prestpation Cim. 11, good to soll) on persubmate start CLINPET 14: 7th of 15 to Joine King in claiming norms: headle at Fashkeil Cim. 21 110pd, good to limit. Selection: SCRIPT

4.10 FLISHER FOODS MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE

(Amai	ieus: 🖰	,067· 2m 5f) (10 numers)
581	3P23-	ASTOLDED 333P (Lies 5 Coherty) Nes 5 Multires 7-12-8 . R Whith-Bowen (7)
502	P12-4	CENTRE STASE 7 (G.S.) 9. Boursen) Mrs. 5 Warr 11-12-8 A Warr (7)
568	1379	DASS/BOARD LIGHT 290P (S) (Bogine Fame) Mr. C Cooke 7-12-8 Staton Andrews (S)
584	44/11/	EREYBURY LAME 1003P (6.5) (0 San) Mrs D San 9-12-8
594 546	#P/224-	GYPSY KING 352 Ales IN thrustony G Conger 7-12-9
586		KING HIGH 1862F Ours N Winghtons N Winghton 10-12-0 C Ward (1)
566 507	2130	SMEDS OF GOLD 705 (5) (6 Section) C Notaco 9-12-6 [LAY (7)
588	22-2	TRUFAST LAD B (F,G,S) (M Roburts) M Reserts 12-12-8 P Hacking (3) 8
538 500	6/0000-F	ELL GEE 7 (P Townsley, Mrs. P Townsley 7-12-3 Mass C Townsley (7)
744	-,	PARTICIPATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

SETTINGS: 7-4 Velocal Land, 100-30 Greyousy Lane, 11-2 Septin Keep, 8-1 Joston Don, Sands, Di Gold, 10-1 III Gen 12-1 cibbs: FORM FOCUS

ASTOCHED 11 2nd of 9 to Alexey; Great in point-to-point at Lasting (2m, good) on potuntanale dant SPEYPLIRY LANE, best Sengtain Sensec 11 in point-to-point at Collection (2m, good), Ann 94 GYPSY KING 51 2nd of 9 to Stees Jed in history Selection. TREFAST LAD

4.40 FOLKESTONE HANDICAP HURDLE

Long Rendicac: Roger s Pal 9-9, Labellal 9-3 BETTRUC 2-1 Monte School. 7-2 August East B. 4-1 August Theritis, 9-2 Matherine, 7-1 Mathematic, 8-5 Color Land TIG-1 colors

FORM FOCUS

ACONTES SCHAM 1961 for an 10 to Comm. Commu-in novice hundle bare. (2m 40 11 fbys., good to fam) on patualisation start, April 96. ARSES SCHT 8 for Rans Spatial 40 in 14-more handicap hundle quar course and distance (good to solit) on perullisasion Sept.

MALLANCERF 14911 Am of 14 to Danie: Causie in
Francis faudio over course and distince (good to

2011. MARLENTOR 21 2nd of 16 to Jove King in claiming moleculitarile at Fostwell (2m 21 110pd. lood in mark. AUGUST TWELFTH 30+) 2nd of 5 to Magar Read in handson broadle at Lingheid (2m 110pd. heavy). LANDIFAL 30 2nd of 5 to Mayb-Lingheid in tendicap

COURSE SPECIALISTS										
TRAINERS (Pupe Balding Fore Grand Conti	Man. 9 3 11 10 3	14 68 64 21	257 21.4 16.2 15.6 14.3	JOCKEYS D Briganda B Facility P Hessiay A Magadra S McMagli	Wanters 6 4 3 8 5	36 19 16 40 30	23 1 21 1 10,5 16,7 16,7			

Fixtures fall to waterlogging

THE meeting at Hexham today has been abandoned because of a waterlogged course. Stewards intended to inspect this morning but after heavy rain yesterday decided to call off the fixture during the afternoon. Yesterday's meeting at Carlisle ed because of waterlogging.

KEENE on CHESS

31 bxc6

32 Oxd6

33 Qd5+

35 Ra2 06 Kt2

38 Red2

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's record

By capturing first prize in the super tournaments at both Las Palmas and Linares, Garry Kasnarov has catabulted his likely rating in the next published list to the astonishing level of 2,820. This will be a world record. No other player in the history of chess has approached the 2,800 level. let

alone surpassed it. In his final spurt at Linares, Kasparov had to win every game in order to overtake Vladimir Kramnik, his main rival. In the following game, Kasparov imagi-natively assaults White's king's position with the black pawns.

White: Alexei Shirov Black: Garry Kasparov Linares, February 1997

NI3

NC

Bg5

8 Bh4

8 Bg3 10 Be2

11 Bxg4

12 13

13 0-0

16 b3

21 Red1

22 04

ZE Nc3

24 Rte1

25 Nects

27 16

28 Bxl4

29 obs

3 d4

abcdefah Sicilian Defend

After 39 Rxe3 Rxe3 40 Rxe3 Bg5+ Black will emerge with a winning Adams shines

Britain's Michael Adams can also be well satisfied with his performance at Linares. He lost just one game, to Kasparov himself and shared third prize with Topalov, ahead of Poigar, Anand, Ivanchuk and Shirov. Although not a tournament victory, taking third prize in such exalted company must be accounted one of Adams' career

Chics Chics

Diagram of final position

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 thess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Baisford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at 66.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

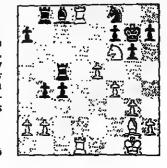
MINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

March 5

White to play. This position is from the game Gutman - Kalinchev. Boblingen 1997. The powerfully placed white rooks give him a very active position, but he must exploit it quickly before the black queenside pawns become a serious threat. How did White continue?

Solution on page 46





Under-21 match Italian League v Football League (al Luigh Farraris Stadium, Genos, 3.0) Venthall Conference Spaking Challenge Cup Quarter-finel replay Stalybridge v Morecambe (7.45) ...

Bell's Scottish League Premier division Rangars v Dundae Uld (7.45) Second division Livingston v Brechin Stravaer v Hamilton

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow V Bishop's Stortland. First division: Chasham V Tooting and Milcham. Third division: Raclevell Heath y Harlow. division: Riaclesed Heath v Harrow.
DR MARTERS LEAGUE: Midland division: Paget R v Evesharrt, Reunds T v Shepshed D; VS Rugby v Bedworth. Southern division: Bashiery v Havent; Dentiond v Wirrey.
UNBOND LEAGUE: First divisions. Bradland Pk Ave v Stockstridge Ps. League Cup: Fourth round: Boston v Erriey.

MANDE RISCHANCE COMBINATION: PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: First thirderslied v Sunderland (7.0); Hudderslied v Sunderland (7.0); West Bromwich v Port Vele (at Helesowers Town FC, 7.0). Second division: Burnley v Hull (7.15), Rotherhem v York (7.0); Snewsbury v Gransby (7.0); Third division: Destington v Wigen (7.0); Donester v Walsali (7.0); Pochdale v Chester (7.0); Scantharpe v Bury (7.0). (7.4); SCHITCHOP Y CHAY (1.4).
GREBET LEAGUE OF WALES:
Casmarton v Fint Town (7.45), Casmarihan, Town v Aberystwyth; Comass Bay v
Conwy; Ton Pentre v Briton Farty. WELSH CUP: Quarter-linel replay: PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE Clachnacuddin y Hunly; Deveronvale y Kaith; Eigin y Fort William;

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE Premier devision: Buckingham Athetic v Bedford, London Cokey v Leichworth.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First di-

Latchworth.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBENATION: Premier divisions: Worsester
Athetico v Kings Heath.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTH-SIN
LEAGUE: Prem divisions: Crook v
Morpeth; Durham v Sesham Red Ster.
Whickheim v Suisborough: Whitey v
Easington.

BANG'S BREWENY LEAGUE Primate division: Etingshall Hit v Datestor; Lye Town v Brigatey Hill T; Stallond T v Walstell Wood.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Citheron v Rossendale; Perath v Stackpool Rovers; St Helens v Mann Road.

FA YOUTH CUP: Founts gound: Nothers were Exercised. Lingham Forest & Blackburn Rovers SCHOOLS MATCHES: Southern

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Solution Counties Cop: Newhern v Reduiding (2.0) Finch Trophy: Beday v Chyddin (10.30), English Goodysar Under-16 Trophy: Norton, Clevetard v Cardinal Heeren, West Yorkshire (3.0), Bedneisser Down, Gloucestesthire v Churaton Grammar, Devon (3.0) RUGBY UNION CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMP-IONSHIP: Miclands final: Wavecishin v Notinghamshire, Lincolmbra and Darbyshire (at Rugby, 7.30).

BASIGTBALL: Butinnian Langue: Bi-ranghain v Manchester (8.19). ICE HOCKET: Superinegate: Apr v Newcosto (8.30). SNOOKET: International Open (in

 b. Name dropping c. imposing

Answers on page 46

مِكذا من رلامل

Arsenal to examine champions' resolve

captain, will miss the games against Arsenal and Chelsea

because of suspension, as will

ing from an operation. In their

absence, Ferguson may con-template playing Cole and

Solskjaer as an orthodox

strike force, or he may decide

to play only one, with

Beckham and Keane in mid-

field, and Giggs and Poborsky playing wide. May and Philip Neville are also in the

keeper, has failed to recover in

time from the knee ligament

injury that kept him out of England's World Cup qualify-ing match against Italy last

week, but Adams, the captain,

has shown no reaction after

playing against Tottenham

Hotspur last Saturday, despite

a damaged ankle, and will

again lead the side against

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said: "Seaman is much better than at the week-

end, but not quite ready yet. Hopefully, he will be under

consideration for next Sun-

day's game against Wimbledon."

Lukic will continue to

deputise for Seaman, and

Wenger, who is expected to

name an unchanged side, said: "John filled the team

with plenty of confidence in

the Tottenham match and

returning to join

MANCHESTER United's FA Carling Premiership title creover the next four days when they make two trips to the capital. They face third-placed Arsenal at Highbury tonight, with Chelsea awaiting them on Saturday, but Alex Ferguson, the United manager, was keen to play down the significance of the matches.

These two games are very, very important," he said, "but no more so than the next !! after them. At this stage of the season, getting points in all the

games is the target."
Victory for Arsenal, and for Liverpool against Leeds Uni-ted at Anfield tonight, would see both sides leapfrog United at the top of the table. A couple of weeks ago Ferguson said that the ball was in Arsenal's court as the other championship still had to visit



Bergkamp: threat

Highbury. A victory by United tonight, however, would raise some questions about the London club's ability to go the

United and Arsenal have had some tight matches - and some virulent ones — over the years, and Ferguson expects another difficult match

"Arsenal have changed a bit," he said. "Tactically, they give Bergkamp a lot of freedom. He links well with Merson and they have more flexibility, are a bit more subtle than they were. But it's the same nucleus at the back that we've played against for ten years. They are very experienced, they've always been very competitive and it won't be any different this

Eric Cantona, the United

Stockport look up to guardian Angell

David Maddock on

a travelling player

calming the nerves of cup inexperience

huffling around awkwardly, eyes wide with barely conger members of the Stockport County Coca-Cola Cup semifinal squad were clearly un-used to the strange ritual of a media open day in a swanky

Mottram Hall is a country house that plays host to the rich and famous of the North West. Its marbled corridors and grandly ornate rooms are familiar to captains of industry and leading sportsmen. Germany stayed here during the European championship; Alex Ferguson and Eric Cantona are regular visitors.

Stockport players are not. They have beaten three Premiership clubs on their way to a semi-final tie with Middlesbrough but the Nationwide League second division players are still unfamiliar with the big time. "It's all a mistake," their expressions said. "I shouldn't be here."

It is one thing, of course upsetting big teams in the cup, quite another arriving as a fancied side in a semi-final. Stockport have performed he-roically to get this far, but the impression lingers that they have wandered slightly out of their depth.

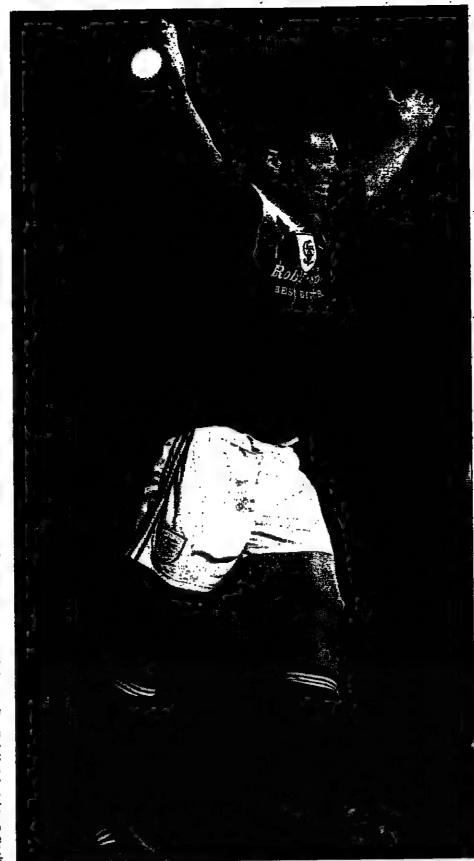
One man, though, was at ease with his surroundings at the open day, fielding the double-edged questions of an ment. Brett Angell, who returned earlier this season for his second spell at Stockport, is one of their few players who is at ease with the trappings of the top flight, even if he did not stay there

long. He had unhappy spells showed that he is an impressive goalkeeper. If he plays like that again we can have no with Everton and Sunderland in the Premiership, but Angell, 28, believes that both Platt, the Arsenal midfield clubs offered positive experiplayer, has resumed training ences. "I am relaxed now, happy with my life at Stock-port," he explained. "Before I after a hamstring injury and could return against Wimblewent to Everton I was so The FA Cup quarter-final tie between the Nationwide League second-division teams, ambitious, so eager to move up, that I was anxious, I didn't enjoy the experience of Chesterfield and Wrexham.

playing football. will be played on Sunday. March 9, after police advice. Stockport I haven't lost ambi-Chesterfield's near neightion, but I can enjoy times like this far more. We are in a bours, Derby County, have a home match on the Saturday semi-final and it is a great - against either Southampton experience, but before i may in the Premiership, or Midhave let it pass me by, wanting to earn that big move. Now, if one comes dlesbrough in the Cup if Derby defeat Coventry City next Wednesday.

A spokesman for Derby-shire Police sald: "Chesterfield along, great. If not, then I can live with it because I can appreciate what we are and Derby are only 26 miles

achieving here." David Jones, the Stockport



The imposing presence of Angell has inspired an unlikely attack on the Coca-Cola Cup.

atmosphere of fevered ambition at the club. "If they don't want to go on to bigger things, then I don't want them here," he said yesterday. Angell, though, is a rare exception because he has already done it, albeit briefly. He played barely 15 games

for Everton, an uncomfortable outsider during the unhappy reign of Mike Walker. Then, signed by Mick Buxton for Sunderland, he did not

manage ten games under the new manager, Peter Reid. Each time he was denied a fair opportunity because the club was in turmoil.

He refuses, however, to look. for excuses. "I could blame the circumstances but I am an honest person - too honest es — and I can hold my hands up and say i didn't do the business when I was in the team, I didn't score the goals," he said.

brought back to Stockport with me. I am not bitter, if anything I feel the opposite. because I don't think I have anything to prove. But I still have ambition and I want to be a success here, get us into the final and win promotion."

"It is something I have

A towering centre forward, Angell is often described as "old-fashioned" in the sense that his ability in the air perhaps outweighs his con-

mug though and represents Stockport's best chance against a Middlesbrough defence that even the kindest observers would describe as

It is Angell's experience on what will be a venture into the unknown that will be most valuable to Stockport. He has the presence and intelligence to calm those around him, to remind them that they are simply continuing an adventure started with the defeat of Blackburn Rovers, rather than entering the pressure-laden environs of a semi-final. And he believes, passionately, that they can progress to the

Middlesbrough will be really have much to lose," he said. "The fact is that they are a Premiership side and we are from the second division. so we really shouldn't be expected to win — and we know that we would have no chance in the Premiership. because we couldn't do it reek in, week out.

"But we do know that we can do it occasionally, as our wins over Rovers, West Ham proved. This is where it gets tricky, because suddenly we have all the pressure, the interest, the tension that a semi brings. But if we can reproduce our best form then we know we can beat them.

tockport and now Wrexham and Chesterfield have proved more and more Premiership managers say that there are not the players to be found lower down any more. Why the apparent contradiction?

Angel believes that it is the permicious effect of money that is slowly ripping the game apart.

"There are plenty of players in our division who could play in the Premiership, but these days they cost real money," he said. "In the past, a lower-division player could go into the reserves at a bigger club and experience slowly what it is all about.

"Nowadays, if a player costs a million pounds then he has to go straight into the team because everything is instant. Money demands instant success. It is too much of a. level on those terms, even though the players are there

Stockport are intent on proving as much this evening as they look to give another of the Premiership aristocrats a bloodied nose. With an Angell hovering at the far post, who would bet against it?

Diary, page 18

Boyd ban adds to selection worries for Burns

By Our Sports Staff

owards en

TOM BOYD, the Celtic defender, will miss the Bell's Scottish League premier division match against Rangers next month, as well as a possible Old Firm meeting in the quarter-final of the Tennents Scottish Cup. Boyd was booked in the l-l draw with Hibernian at Easter Road in the fourth-round tie on Monday night, and will now be suspended for three matches next month.

The Scotland international will miss Celtic's away game against Kilmarnock on March 4, the Cup quarter-final home tie against Rangers on March 8 — assuming that Celtic beat Hibernian in their replay at Parkhead next Wednesday and the home game against. Rangers on March 16.

It is a setback for Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, whose side trails Rangers, the champions and leaders by seven points. Burns is also without Jackie McNamara, his Scotland international right back, who is struggling with a hamstring injury, Mc-Namara missed the cup-tie on Monday night and is doubtful for the match away to Mother-

well on Saturday. Alan Stubbs is already ruled out of that match because of a one-match ban after exceeding the 16-point disciplinary limit. On top of injury and suspen-

sions. Burns's selection process is also being hindered by international call-ups. After being without Jorge Cadete, their Portugal international striker, on Monday because of his country's match against Greece tonight, Burns could lose Pierre Van Hooijdonk for the replay next Wednesday. The striker is expected to be named in the Holland squad for the match against France in Paris on the same night.

Hibernian now face two trips to Glasgow in four days. as they play Rangers at Ibrox on Sunday in a premier division match before the cup replay with Certic. They may be struggling in the league but their bank balance has re-ceived a healthy boost from their exploits in the Cup. The replay will earn them around £200,000.

Brighton poll plan gets cool reception

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAUL SCALLY, the Gilling-ham chairman, has asked representatives of Brighton and Hove Albion supporters to carry out a survey to determine whether fans want the proposed ground-share at stfield to go ahead.

His move follows a threat to scrap the two-year arrangement because of fierce opposi-tion from some Brighton supporters, who object to making a round trip of 170 miles to attend home games. Liz Costa, vice-chair of the

official supporters' club, said yesterday that she thought the Gillingham chairman was wrong to put the onus on Brighton fans. "If Mr Scally believes he has made a mistake, it is for him to tear up the contract," she said. "I've had discussions with him ... and he wants us to talk to other supporters' groups to see if

another survey is needed. "But our first survey resulted in only 2 per cent of fans saying they were prepared to go to Gillingham, while 75 per cent said they would go but only if the club had new owners and there was a new stadium to come back to."

Ian Hart, co-editor of the Brighton fanzine, Gulls Eye, said that the Brighton chairman, Bill Archer, should pursue one of two options if Scally pulls out, leaving Brighton homeless at the end of the season. He said: "Archer could try and go in with the consortium leader, Dick Knight, and... attempt to get a temporary ground in the Brighton area, or he could negotiate a deal with the developers, Chartwell, to remain at the Goldstone Ground which, I'm led

to believe, is still an option. "If Brighton had to sell their ground to cover debts, fair enough, but they should have had a leaseback agreement so Chartwell could not bring ited the bulldozers before the new ground was finished." ☐ Cardiff supporters will not be allowed to attend the third division match against Swansea at the Vetch Field on

March 2. because of a history

of trouble between

Juventus endorse benefits of Oxford education

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN GENOA

AS THE repercussions of the Bosman ruling continue to rumble on, with footbail's borders broken down, the exchange of talent between countries took an unlikely twist yesterday - from Juventus, of Italy, to Oxford United, of the Nationwide advanced stage.

apart and we do not have the

resources to man both Cup

games on the same day."

ed by surprise in Italy,

League first division. Negotiations between the clubs, spearheaded by Robin Herd, the Oxford chairman, are at an

Though the move was greet-

Juventus are believed to be interested in using the club as a "finishing school" for their most promising 19 and 20-year-old players. If it is

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LIVE COCA COLA CUP ACTION 9/4 STOCKPORT 9/4 DRAW MIDDLESBRO' Evs. Edgeley Park, Kick-off 7.45pm, Live on ITV.

8/1 STOCKPORT 12/1 5TOCKPORT MAY DRAW

FIRST COALSCORER 4/1 RAVANELLI (M) 6/1 BECK (M)

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sanctioned by the Football League and Football Association, the arrangement, which also includes an exchange of ideas, could come into force "It is very exciting but

Juventus are not just going to send us players," Herd said. "They have managed to combine the traditional technical brilliance of the continentals with the power and pace of the British. They will also be showing us how they go about doing it."

It was news, too, to the Football League delegation here in Genoa, on the north west coast of Italy, for the representative game between the Nationwide League and Serie B at the Luigi Ferraris Stadium, home of Sampdoria and Genoa, this afternoon. The immediate reaction was one of caution. David Sheepshanks, the

new chairman of the Football League, said: "The exchange of views, skills and coaching

welcomed but we have to be careful about preserving a level playing field for everyone in the League. We have to be sure it fits comfortably with the wishes of the majority." The long-term loaning of

young players, usually for a season, is commonplace in the Italian league. Seven of those in the Serie B squad to play the Nationwide League have

TEAMS MATICHMMEDE LENGUE: A Mareireal INcrivech Celyl: A Moses (Barroley), A Rodgers (Transverse Rovers), C Searcard (Colora Arbiboto, D Miller Moreich Cely), D Hamilton (Bradford Crly), B Hughes (Merdan), L Bradbury (Porsanouri), M Buflook (Barroley), B Dyer (Crystal Peisce) Substitutes, K David Luten Town), D Purse (Oxford United), S Newton (Charten Artistot, B Taylor (Bolton Wanderes), 1 Lawson (Hudderseld Town)

SERIE B (probable): M Genello (Chin SERRE B (promote) M German Limito).

Disaccin (Casaron). E Bhosachi (Nereza), S.
Larina (Chevo), L. Mezzano (Torino), A Plin
(Selembaro), G Pier Rutzbu (Gerco), G.
Todesco (Palemo), A Zancheba (Fogga).
C. Zanetti (Veneza), M Campolonghi (Presca), Substitutes M Roccato (Revena), S. Mercunt (Torino), G. Zanetti
(Connect. C. American (Frond)). been farmed out from clubs in

Brian Horton, the Huddersfield Town manager, who is coaching the Nationwide League side, expects a formidable task. His line-up comprises of only under-2l players, even though they are among the most highly rated in the league.

This is very important for their education," Horton said. "Some of them have hardly been abroad let alone played there. You always take pride in any game, and always want to win, but the main object is for them to go out and enjoy it. They have nothing to lose, nothing to fear, and it should be a valuable experience for all of them."

Horton is likely to utilise the majority of his squad at some stage and for Darren Purse. 20, one of the substitutes, it is perhaps an ideal opportunity. Should the Oxford central defender come on and produce a good display, the Juventus scouts may be watching.

Wright price persuades Forest

NOTTINGHAM Forest have agreed to sell Tommy Wright, the Northern Ireland international goalkeeper, to Manchester City, but not before he has made one final appearance for the struggling FA Carling Premiership side

(Richard Hobson writes). Wright is on loan at Maine Road and will continue to train with City. However, he will return to Forest to play against Tottenham Hotspur on March I because Mark Crossley is suspended after his sending-off in the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Chesterfield on Saturday.

The clubs have agreed a fee of £450,000 and Wright is prepared to sign the necessary documents immediately after the game at White Hart Lane. en his strongest hint yet that

Forest have ensured that Nigel Clough will remain with them on loan from City for a third month.

It is the second time that Frank Clark, the City manager, has signed Wright. Four years ago, as the Forest manager, he bought him from Newcastle United, also for £450,000, but the form of Crossley and a succession of injuries has restricted him to only ten league games. Wright, 33, said that he

almost retired 15 months ago. but his fortunes improved when he went to Reading on loan. He regained his international place on the back of those performances. Meanwhile, Irving Korn. the Forest chairman, has givthe club will be forced to sell its best players if the takeover situation is not resolved at an extraordinary general meet-ing on Monday next week. "There are two bids and, if neither is accepted, the club will be in a position the next day where it will have to raise substantial funds urgently." Korn said. Doug Sharpe, the Swansea

City chairman, has put the Nationwide League third division side back up for sale at £300,000 — a fifth of the sum that he says the club owes him. Sharpe's decision comes against a background of disputes between him and Jan Molby, the player-manager. "I have done my best to keep the club in the top four." Sharpe said. "That's my lot."

Eriksson signals Blackburn doubt

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN GENOA two weeks, we will see."
Eriksson, who has also SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON.

yesterday gave the strongest indications yet that he will not be joining Blackburn Rovers for the start of next season. Even though Eriksson signed a three-year contract at Ewood Park two months ago. it is now expected that he will leave Sampdoria, the Serie A club based here, for Lazio, of

Sampdoria's Swedish coach,

Eriksson, 49, one of Europe's most respected coaches, was speaking at Sampdoria's training ground in the foot-hills of Bogliasco, near Genoa, on the Mediterranean coast.



Eriksson: strong hint

Though he declined to be drawn on his decision, and phrased his words diplomatically, Italian sources believe that Blackburn will be ultimately disappointed. "I know more or less what I will do," Eriksson, who has spent five years with Sampdoria, said. "It is very difficult at the moment, there is a big question mark for a lot of people, and it is very awkward for me. "I can't really talk about the situation - in Italy, we are not supposed to talk about these things until the end of the

season - but when it is time, I

will tell everyone. Perhaps in

coached IFK Gothenburg, Benfica, AS Roma and Fiorentina, is understood now to favour a return to Rome to replace Zdenek Zeman, who was dismissed a fortnight ago. rather than sample the delights of Lancashire. However, he has kept Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, informed of his feelings. "I have been in good contact with Blackburn and I talk to them regularly," Eriksson

said. "They are aware of what is happening." Significantly, though, he has not spoken with Tony Parkes, who took over when Ray Harford resigned in October and, in a caretaker capacity, has helped to lift the club away from the relegation zone in the FA Carling Premiership.

When Eriksson signed for Blackburn for a salary reported to be £1 million a year, Sampdoria were struggling in Serie A. Ironically, they have since regained their form and lie second in the table behind Juventus. "Nobody can believe that we could play so well," he

☐ Berti Vogis, the Germany coach, yesterday selected the South African-born Sean Dundee in his squad for an international against Israel on February 26, just two months after the Karlsruhe striker became a German citizen.

Dundee, the Bundesliga's top scorer this season with 14 goals to his name, applied for German citizenship using a special fast-track method for cases of "public interest".

His decision to apply for a German passport sparked outrage in his native country, where politicians accused him of turning his back on South Africa and called for the move

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IN BRIEF

Financial

threat to

Yorkshire YORKSHIRE county cricket

club could face a heavy financial burden if it goes ahead with plans to leave Headingley and set up a new ground near Wakefield. Paul

Caddick, chairman of Leeds Cricket, Football and Atheltics Club, the owners of the dualpurpose complex at Headingley, said yesterday that he intends to enforce the terms of a 99-year agreement that the

company has with the county. which still has some \$4 years

He said: "We are not pre-

pared to release Yorkshire

from their obligations and commitment to promote

Headingley and ensure it re-

tains its status as a permanent

another ground at Durkar,

their obligations to promote

Headingley will remain until

- if ever - they are released.

Tennis: Bjorn Borg and John

McEnroe will be back in London this year to renew their classic rivalry at the Albert Hall, which will be the

venue for the last event of the

European ATP Senior Tour of

Champions season, from

Borg and McEnroe, who

had two memorable duels at

Wimbledon, will be among

those competing on the tour.

Other former favourites

include Jimmy Connors, Pat

Cash, Yannick Noah and

Test match venue.

Brat back

December 5 to 8.

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Boyd by adds worrie for Bun

RUGBY UNION

Scots point Hastings towards end of the road

THE international career of ing faded from the picture scott Hastings. Scotland's after the 1995 World Cup. most-capped player, appears to have ended after his omission from the squad to play Ireland in the five nations' championship at Murrayfield on Saturday week. Having been dropped to the bench after the defeat by Wales, Hastings now finds himself totally excluded, as are Ronnie Eriksson and Derek Stark, who both played against England. Hastings has proved people wrong before but, this time, there is little chance of a reprieve.

While Hastings mulls over the possibility of an enforced retirement. Alan Tait, at 32 the same age as the Watsonian, can contemplate a renewed call to arms. The public clamour for his return has finally been heeded and he is one of three changes, all in the back division, to the 21-man squad announced yesterday.

SQUAD

With only two specialist: centres included, Tait, of Newcastle - who only returned from rugby league at the start of the season - looks certain to win his ninth cap, nine years after he last appeared, against England at Murrayfield. Tait has been "firing on all cylinders" this season, David Johnston, the backs' coach, said. He added that Hastings had not played well for Edinburgh in the Heineken Cup and his form compared unfavourably with

Eriksson. a try-scorer at Twickenham, is now considered too limited a player for the game to which Scotland aspire, while Stark was apparently found wanting in too many areas against England. However, there is a heartwarming return to the squad for Cameron Glasgow, who, despite years of faithful service, remains uncapped. Hav-

By BRIAN CLARKE

VITAL steps that could

lead to the emergence of the

unified voice that angling so

needs, will be announced in

the next few days. The princi-

pal bodies which represent the

sport - the Salmon and Trout

Association, the National Fed-

eration of Anglers (NFA) and the National Federation of Sea

Anglers - have agreed to

produce a four-year, co-

ordinated plan for their educa-

tion and training needs. At the

same time they have agreed

draft proposals for a new

umbrella body.

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Glasgow has enjoyed a new lease of life this season.

His versatility, pace and footballing skills have brought him back to the fore at a time when such commodities are keenly appreciated. game is moving back in his direction," Johnston said. "He has always been a player with incredible talent."

Duncan Hodge, of Watson-ians, promoted from the A team, is one of three selected players who prefer to play at stand-off half. He is a proven goalkicker, which may yet see him selected at No 10 ahead of Craig Chalmers, with Gregor Townsend likely to partner Tait at centre. It might be a gamble, but then Scotland have few other options.

Off the field, Johnston yesterday dismissed the muchtrumpeted restructuring of the Scottish Rugby Union an-nounced on Monday as "largely cosmetic". Apart from the co-option of several highprofile businessmen, Johnston believes that little has or will change, and that a lack of democracy and accountability will still exist. However, he hopes that men such as Sir William Purves, Dr George Mathewson and David Murray will bring with them "an infusion of objectivity", at the very least.

Johnston also questions why the administration has not been streamlined. "From a general committee of 18, I now count 56 positions of authority," he said. "With all the positions salaried, and a fulltime executive of over 50 at Murrayfield, could we be over-egging the goose [sic], given our rugby, population? How much will all this cost? Too many administrators

have been co-onted. Johnston added, when what was needed was a structure which will encourage everyone associated with the game to be a candidate for positions of au-Stellenbosch University, the beaten finalists last season, will return for the Bell's Melrose Sevens, at the Greenyards on April 12. Joining them from overseas are Gordon RFC, from Sydney. and Cascais RFC, from Portugal. The fourth guest side is Cambridge University.

The decisions were taken

last week to speak with a

single voice on a range of common issues including fish-

eries regulation, water re-

sources, cormorant predation

and funding from, among

others, the Sports Council and

on education and training -

an area seen as vital in

recruiting young people - will be put into effect at once.

Proposals for the new um-

brella body, which would

include representatives of the

National Association of Fish-

eries and Angling Consult-

Proposals for the joint plan

the National Lottery.



Vidiri escapes from the clutches of the grounded Pilgrim as Auckland Blues take the game to Harlequins at the Stoop yesterday

Harlequins emerge with heads held high Faces were unrecognisable, so

Hartequins . Auckland Blues

BY JOHN HOPKINS

AFTER the swath that Otago cut through English rugby and Auckland's demolition of Bristol last week, Harlequins had to stop more of the same. Not only did they do so at the Stoop memorial ground, but they also led for nearly an hour against the Super 12 champions and thoroughly embarrassed their distinguished visitors.

The pitch resembled a quagmire. Midway through the second half the Harlequins forwards changed their shirts.

thickly coated were they in mud. To see nine tries scored in such a restful game helps to explain why 9,000 spectators left the ground feeling satisfied and why the gates were closed on some before kick-off. When was the last time

Auckland trailed by 17 points? The men from New Zealand were outplayed by the speed of the Harlequins forwards to the loose ball, their ability to win rucks, to harass and to destroy in such treacherous conditions. Harlequins de-served to lead 22-12 at halftime, after tries by Dominic Chapman, Peter Mensah and Gareth Llewellyn. Auckland attempted to play a game

more suited to a firmer pitch and, not surprisingly, they could not do it well. Mass replacement at half-

time by Harlequins meant a new side in the second half. It is doubtful whether Will Carling, Llewellyn and Jason Leonard had enough energy left to sustain another combative 40 minutes after their international games last Saturday and before an important cup game this Sunday. With their departure, Harle-

quins lost any chance of victory. Slowly, Auckland hauled themselves back into the game. Brian Lima dodged over from five yards, Adrian Cashmore, who had converted one try in the first half, kicked

Carter scored a try. Hardly had Auckland regained the lead than Nick Walshe, a lively scrum half, scored the try that, when converted by Corcoran, gave Harlequins the lead once more. But even in such alien

conditions, Auckland have enough experience to cope and their pride was at stake, too. A series of surges took them to the Harlequins line and Richard Fromont scored from a lineout, before Cashmore kicked a penalty when the Harlequins' backs were caught offside.

"We weren't right to play the game upstairs," Graham Henry, the Auckland coach,

his first penalty and Mark said. "I felt that, after the match against Bristol, and over the weekend, there wasn't the usual intensity in training that there should have been. It happens occasionally."

happens occasionally.**

SCORERS: Hedequire: Tries: Chapman, Mensari, Lieuwijn, Walshe Conversions: Lacroix. (Jawaijn, Walshe Conversions: Lacroix. (Jawaijn, Corponer. Persitly goal: Lacroix. (Jawaijn, Corponer. Persitly goals: Vidin; Contustion: Caster, Fermani. Comversion: Casteriore. Pensitly goals: Casteriore (J.). HARLECUINS: S. Pigom; D. Cupman, W. Caring, P. Mansah, D. Luger; T. Licroix, N. Walshe, J. Laonaro, T. Biblios, A. Mallers, R. Jankins, A. Snow, Gareth Lleweilyn, L. Cabarnes, W. Dovson, Luger replaced by D. O'Lany; Gamin); Laonar replaced by L. Geoss (40); Laterial replaced by L. Bénézioch (40); Levend replaced by J. Kayter (40); Cabannes replaced by S. Owen (40); Pigrim replaced by M. Corcorra (55). AUCKLAMIX: A. Casternore; J. Vidin, E. Carke, I. Stemansas, B. Lima; C. Sopensar, J. Younful, O. Crawford, A. Roose, O. Brown, L. Lafaishif, R. Flormord, R. Brooke, M. Carter, C. Paechalmann.

Henri Leconte.
TOUR SCHEDULE: June 20-22: Prague
July 18-21: Porschach, Austria Sep 1922: Paris Cot 10-13: Pesaro, Italy Nov 2124: Frankturi Dac 5-8: London. Goulding plea

Rugby league: Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, who was banned by the Rugby Football League for eight games last week after being sent off in the fourth-round Silk Cut Challenge Cup match with Wigan, will have his appeal against the severity of the sentence heard tomorrow. Goulding had not been sent off for five years before the incident, seen live on BBC

Berger king

Motor racing: Gerhard Berger, of Austria, broke the track record at Estoril. Portugal, in his Bentton-Renault for the second time in two days yesterday during Formula One testing, covering a lap in Imin 18.65sec.

Stan Pearson

Football: Stan Pearson, who scored one of the goals to help Manchester United win the 1948 FA Cup Final, has died at the age of 78.

GOLF: PGA HOPING TO EXPLOIT IMPACT BEING MADE BY THE US TOUR'S NEW STAR ATTRACTION

Officials believe Woods will act as inspiration ence for golf — he is putting clubs in the hands of young— that and I don't think we can clubs in the hands of young— that and I don't think we can dustry is not buoyant at the in September is already a sell out, all 28,000 tickets for the

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE impact that Tiger Woods has had on the game in only six months as a professional could lead to greater interest in Britain, according to Sandy Jones, executive director of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA). Jones, who has just returned from a trip to the United States, said: There is a whole new audi-

FISHING: SQUABBLING BODIES STRUGGLE TOWARDS UNITY TO SAFEGUARD FUTURE OF THE SPORT

Anglers cast for bigger say with single voice

atives, the Specimen Anglers'

Conservation Group and the

Anglers Conservation Associ-

ation, will be circulated over

Angling's inability to speak

as one has cost it dear.

Rivairies between the three

groups have led to confusion

and often conflicting positions

even on matters of fundamen-

Relationships with govern-

ment departments have been

fouled, negotiations with the

former National Rivers Au-

thority on matters as basic as

rod licences were uncoordinat-

ed and funding from the

tal importance to each.

the next few weeks.

sters who have never seen one sources in golf." before. There are eight, nine and ten-year-olds taking up the game because of him. "I think we are definitely

going to get a spin-off from it. All the main inner cities become possibilities for us and we are thinking of trying a pilot programme in Birmingham with minority groups. We need support for

but non-existent.

groups into action.

Perhaps most damaging was the decision of the British

Field Sports Society (BFSS) -

a body which large numbers

of anglers believe should be

kept at arms length - to step

in to fill the vacuum. It was the BFSS's decision to appoint its

own angling adviser that

eventually stung the angling

Many will regard it as a

pity, then, that the NFA yester-

day chose to cloud the an-

nouncement on unity by unilaterally revealing propos-

als for a £7.5 million National

Sports Council has been all Centre for Excellence in An-

Market research carried out

for the PGA has identified a snobbish attitude at some clubs as one of the reasons why there has been a sharp decline in the number of new players taking up the game. Other reasons are expense, the amount of time taken to

gling, which would be based in Nottinghamshire. This bid

for Lottery cash comes hard on

the heels of an even more

ambitious - many would say

ludicrous - proposal from a

marketing company for a £55 million centre in Cheshire.

ready refused to support the Cheshire scheme. On Friday

they decided to study the need

for a national centre as part of

their four-year joint plan. The

NFA would have been advised

to rein back its own ambitions

until it knew the outcome of

the joint study.

The three bodies had al-

a host of other plans, which will be assisted financially by

the 50 per cent of the profit, expected to be over £3 million. play a round and the game's technical difficulties. "The in-Ryder Cup.

to be generated by this year's The match in Valderrama

A national golf week to

promote the sport is being

held in April and the PGA has

again," Jones said.

make the business grow week having been sold at £150. There is a waiting list of over a thousand.

"The trick, from the US Masters in April through to the match, will be to find a ticket," Jones said. "The move to Spain has brought us a more international audience. For matches at The Belfry, there were always tickets available.

TENNIS

Henman scrambles to victory

TIM HENMAN, the Great Britain No I, managed a scrambled victory over Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, in the first round of the European Community championship in Ant-

werp yesterday. Herman, the No 6 seed, has failed to rediscover the form that swept him to the Sydney International title and the final of the Qatar Open at the start of the year. His slump culminated in defeat by Martin Sinner, of Germany, in the first round of the Dubai Open

last week. Yesterday, Henman showed every sign of having lost confidence in his 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 victory. His backhand repeat-edly let him down against Bruguera, twice the winner of the French Open. Bruguera, a wild-card entry, is ranked No 47 in the world, 28 places

below Henman. Henman, however, had beaten him 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in Sydney. The Briton took the first set and was twice a break up in the second before Bruguera squared the match at one set all.

In a third set of missed opportunities on both sides. Henman's erratic backhand again failed and Bruguera hung on to his service to go 3-2 up. Games went with service to 4-4, before Henman gained the only break of the set and served for victory.

Henman's problems may have been caused, however, by a groin injury he has suffered

in the past few weeks.

He will join Thomas
Enqvist, the defending champion, and Malivai Washington, the Wimbledon runner up, in the Indian Open in Madras in April. Greg Rusedski, the Britain No 2, has pulled out of the

ATP Tour event in Memphis because of his wrist injury.

SNOOKER

White rediscovering winning formula

BY PHIL YATES

struck a blow for the older generation by becoming the Benson and Hedges Masters champion. Jimmy White continued his revival by reaching the last 16 of the International Open in Aberdeen with a 5-1 win over Dave Finbow.

White, who ended a 12-match losing run by beating Michael Judge by an identical score in the previous round, demonstrated that his confidence is gradually returning with a performance head and shoulders above any he has produced this season. I'm quite close to really

than comfortable again and the banle," White said. "It's a good feeling to do my playing out in the match arena instead of on the practice table."

White, who has slipped to No 36 in the provisional world

NINE days after Steve Davis rankings, put together breaks struck a blow for the older of 54, 87, 46 and 109 — his first century in competition since losing 13-12 to Peter Ebdon in the last 16 at the Crucible ten months ago. Today he meets Nigel Bond, the No 5 seed, who beat David Roe 5-2. Ronnie O'Sullivan, who

admitted having difficulty erasing the memory of his collapse against Davis in the Masters final, recovered from being 3-1 down to defeat Stuart Pettman 5-3. He goes forward to face Dene O'Kane, of New Zealand, whose surprise 5-2 victory over James Wattana was his first success in four

meetings with the Thai. O' Sullivan fared better than his Masters conqueror Davis, who lost 5-3 to Chris Small at 12.35am yesterday. Their war of attrition lasted for four hours and 58

BOWLS BECKENI-MAK: Churchill Insurance Engthan Players' Association championships:
Regional play-offic Quartar-fresh: P Bernicore (Mote Park) bit C Jumes (Oyster) 7-3,
7-4, B Jerdins (Cambridge Park) bit P Vamvecopoulos (Wey Valley) 6-7, 7-5, 7-1; B
Viciaers (Cyphers) bit J. Multigan (Lundon)
7-1, 0-7, 7-6; G Charlton (Folkestome) bit D
Holman (Oyster) 7-4, 1-7, 7-6; I Jerdens
(Cambridge Park) bit C Bryan (Barlong) 7-5,
7-3; R Mosess (Preston, Brytan) bit O Ovett
(Preston, Brighton) 7-5, 7-7-1; D O'Toole
(Mey Valley) to K Coomber (Cyphers) 7-5,
7-6; S Stopiders (Lundon) bit R Git (Cyphers)
7-7-2; Lardins bit Moses 7-5, 7-5; O'Toole bit
Stockley 3-7, 7-6, 7-2; Finalic Bermicot bit
Vichers 7-3, 7-6; I Jerkins bit O'Toole 7-6,
7-1

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Washington 95 Milwaulee 92; Cleveland 108 New Jessey 101; Indiana 105 Toronto 102; Charlotte 124 Orlando 110; Houston 127 Alfanta 98; Seatile 113 Boston 108, Vancouver 95 Dellas 100

CAPE TOWN: Tour match (final day of three) Australians 439-4 day and 175-8 day CAPE TOWN'T TOUT THAT IN THE TOWN'T THE CAPE T

CYCLING RUTA DEL 901: Second stage (183.2km) La Rinconeda to Puente Genil: 1, J Museouvr (Boll Mapei, 4th 22min 56acc, 2, E Zabel (Gerl Germany; 3, V Estreov (Russ) LS Possat 4, 5 Smitoraine (Russ) Toscat; 5, A Carconeri (II) Sacco; 6, E Delvior (Holl Riscoberit, at serie fine: Lauding overall positions: 1, Zebel 7m 8min 7scc, 2, J Plentaert (Bell Lotto; 3, Smetaritho; 4, Museouvr, 5, R McElwer (Ausr Rabobarit; 6, A Canconeri (II) Secco, sil stene imme. FOOTBALL

FOR THE RECORD

Monday's late results TENNENTS SCOTTISH CLIP: Fourth round: 1-Shemien 1 Cellic 1. VALIMIALL CONFERENCE: Stevenson 2

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second round, second replay: Bromsgrove 0 Hyde 2. UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashlon United 2 Wertington 2.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier divisions Wordster Chy 6 Glouceter Cay 0.
PONTINS LEAGUE: Frest divisions Wolver-hampton 4 Shefheld Linted 2 League Cups: Group these: Windsam 4 Stockpot 10. FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Peterbor-

FA YOUTH GUP: Fourth round: Peterbough 1 Crystal Paleos 3.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: International match: Under 18: England 2 Sweden 2 (at 18:shall). FA Premier laugue under 16: Trophy: Herifordrife 1 Inner London 2 London Cup: Herifordrife 1 Inner London 5. English Knowles Cup: Under 14: Herifordshire 2 Inner London 3. English Buildings under 19 Trophy: Seaton High, Northumberland 2 Wolfreton, Humberside 0

ICE HOCKEY MATIONAL LEAGUE (MHL; NY Islanders 1 Montreal 4; NY Rangers 2 New Jersey 2 (OT); Los Angeles 1 Dates 2: Tumpe Bey 3 Detroit 3 (OT); Anshetm 4 Edmonton 1; St Louis 4 Chizago 2

TIDEWAY: Landon University Trink: Mag-paratrally: Bow, J Burton (Bedfard and

Outen Mary Westfield; No 2, R. Adams (Cratory and Kings) No 3, J. Edwards (Bodkard and Kings) No 3, J. Edwards (Bodkard and Kings) Faur, M. Stanner (Kingston Grammar and U.C.) Fite, S. Felchrouse (Kingston Grammar and Quenn Mary Westfield) Skr, D. Winght (Fleading Blue Coul and Royal Holloway) Seven, F. Peny (Bedford and Goldsmittes) Stacke. R. Obhober (Flampson and Champs) Stacke. R. Obhober (Flampson and Champson and Westminster) Cox. C. Connack (Flampson and Champson and Westminster) Cox. C. Connack (Flampson and Champson and Westminster) Past U.C.) There, E. Nosells (Si. Pauls and U.C.) There, N. Swhitzlaw (Kings Windeldon and Kings) Four. S. Whitelews (Kings Windeldon and Kings) Seven, D. Burton (St. Edwards and Kings) Seven, D. Beckley (Flampson and U.C.) Spoile, D. Hutchare (Flampson and U.C.) Spoile, D. Hutchare (Flampson and U.C.) Grommit: Bow, E. Gudgin (Royal Free) Two, K. Hastings (U.C.). Three, E. Handshwood (Queen Mary Westfield) Spoile, T. Prooks (U.C.) Weilders Bom, M. Myer's (U.C.) Two, L. Anandsie (Royal Free), Three, C. Unicom (Floyal Hollowsy) Stoke, C. Dring (Flywar)

RUGBY UNION

Tour match

Hurlequins 29 Auckland 33 Harlequins: Tries: Chapman, Genth Lieueilym, Monsait, Weistre Core: Co-corer, Justok 2 Pers Lactor: Auchland: Tries: Carter, Fromont, Loria, Tom'u, Valn. Con: Cashmore Punts: Cashmore 2. SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: International Open (England unless stated): Second round: J Swell (N le) bt K Doheny (re) 5-3; A McNanus (Scot) bt S Lee 5-2; J Heggres (Scot) bt O Taylor (N le) 5-1; D Horold bt S James 5-0; C Small (Scot) bt S Davis 5-3; D (Kane (NZ) bt J Wattons (Thail 5-2; M Williams (Water) bt A Hickor 5-2; N Bond bt D 5-2; R O'Sufern bt S Pethnen 5-3; A Drago (Mala) bt S Al (Pol) 5-4; J White bt D Finbour 5-1.

In G Stantolo (3A) 6-4, 6-3; 8 Stewen (AC) to M Onchriste (SA) 6-7, 6-4, 8 Drepte (Aus) by L. Jensen (J.S.) 7-6, 7-8; 5 Larson (Dr) by B. Black (Zm) 6-2, 6-7, 7-8; 5 Larson (Zm) bi J. Hedie (Save) 2-6, 6-3, 7-5; J. Ethingh (Holl) bi J-M Gembell (US) 6-3, 6-3; 8 Shelton (US) bi J. Shyan (US) 5-7, 7-6, 6-4; J. Carnelstob (US) bi J. Grabb (US) 6-4, 6-3, 7-8; J. Frans (Aug) bi M. Falpon (US) 6-4, 6-3, 7-8; J. Frans (Aug) bi M. Falpon (US) 6-4, 6-3, 7-8; J. Frans (Aug) bi M. Damm (C2) bi M. Sinner (Ger) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; M. Tilishom (See) bi H. Gumy (Arg) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, Frans (Aug) bi M. Damm (C2) bi M. Shener (Ger) bi J. Sementh (Holl) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; J. Sincher (Ser) bi J. Siementh (Holl) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; M. Rossel (See) bi J. Siementh (Holl) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; M. Rossel (See) bi J. Siementh (Holl) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; M. Rossel (See) bi M. Sheh (Ger) 7-6, 6-4

6, 6-4
HANCYER: Women's tournament: First round: B Paulus (Austria) bit A Miller (US) 6-0, 6-0; M Maleeva (But) bit S Farma (t) 6-2, 6-1; Y Besud (Indo) bit E Cellens (Bel) 3-6, 6-1; 6-4
DILLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournament. First round: L. Raymona (193) bit K Kachwendt (Austria) 5-7, 6-2, 7-5; R Sampson (Cent) bit P Hand (Austria) 6-3, 6-6, 6-3, C Christea (Rom) bit J Watanabe (US) 6-4, 6-2, F Luberra (fi) bit A Fracter (US) 7-6, 7-5

6-3, 6-2. Fluiberry (I) bit A Frazier (US) 7-6, 7-5. REDBAIDGE: 1.7.4 women's tournamer (GB unless stated): Pirst round: C Taylor bi JAbe (Ger) 6-3, 6-1; Lammer to A Mondoto (So) 6-3, 6-0, N Dectry (Fi) bit B Schwenz (Austral) 6-4, 6-2. E Taterform (Ullo) bit S Park (S Kor) 6-4, 6-1; E Taterform (Ullo) bit S Park (S Kor) 6-4, 6-1; E Taterform (Ullo) bit S Park (S Kor) 6-4, 6-1; F Counge (Fi) bit H Rosen (Ist) 6-2, ert V Coungo (Hum) bit A Mauresmo (Fi) 2-6, 5-4, 7-6; P Gespar (Hun) bit K Talcums (Lepan) 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; S Rotter (Holf) bit N Guse (Aus) 6-3, 8-3; D Bergbanocinicum (Belef) bit N Woottoble 6-3, 6-2; S-3 Stidad bit E Bond 4-6, 6-1, 6-0; C Torrens-Malero (Sp) bit M Mroz (Pol) 6-3, 7-6; L Ahi bit S Klossel (Ger) 6-1, 6-4

SNOW REPORTS Conditions Runs to ste Off/p resort Piste AUSTRIA 15 80 good varied fair cloud (Good piste sking: satari links open)
45 50 good varied closed cloud (Ousting of new snow: good sking most runs)
40 160 good varied good sno (Excellent sking) but mixed visibility)
20 50 000000 pounds pounds. cloud Mayrholen Obergurgh 30 50 good powder (air cloud (Plenty of good sking: Hauser Katoling inst class) Schladming FRANCE z 120 260 good varied good snow -1 18/2
(Visibility very poor but snow in excellent shape)
45 240 good varied (air cloud 3 18/2
(Mined conditions but generally good some slush)
95 250 good heavy good snow -6 18/2
(Very good sking on all runs but white-out conditions)
20 180 good varied wom snow 0 18/2 La Clusaz Flaine (very good stalling to the mile-out continues)
20 180 good varied wom snow 0 18/2
(Generally good but some kryknom spots low down)
50 185 good varied good cloud 2 18/2
esh snow with more torecast; poor visibility) Maribel MALY 90 350 good crust good sno (Good sking at all levels but varied visibility) STIDW 95 190 good varied good cloud (Great sking throughout resort powder available) 60 60 good varied good snow (Good sking on all slopes: occasional hard patch) Livigno Geilo SWITZERLAND 35 300 good powder good snow
(More snow talling, prospects excellent)
30 180 good varied good cloud
(Flat light above tree-line but good lower down)
100 350 good powder good snow
(More tresh snow and poor visibility: outlook good)
50 140 good varied good tall
(Very good sking on well prepared pistss)
10 110 good varied jall rain
(Snowing above 1,400m; generally excellent sking) Klosters Saus Fee St Montz

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes: U - upper.

هِ كذا من رلامل

Fate bowls Tufnell another wrong 'un

ogood Boyo is a character in Under Milk Wood. And at one stage, contemplating life.

Philip Clive Roderick Tufnell is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward. You don't have to know his history he says: "I want to be good boyo -but they won't let me." Phil Tufnell to a tee. The real shock, of course, is that England have won a Test series, not that one of the players has been

accused of smoking cannabis.

Tufnell, for it is he, has been smoking dope in a disabled the Awkward persons lavatory allegedly. Allegedly, Squad of one' for I have done my journalistic law course, the entire ba-

sis of which is the talismanic proper-ties of that magical word. To say "alleged" is the next best thing to the person being dead.

So let us say that Phil Tufnell, alleged left-arm spinner, allegedly a crucial part in England's allegedly triumphant winter, has, it is alleged, been smoking cannabis in one of New Zealand's allegedly good restaurants. I think I'm safe in saying all

But the point is that I can forget all the "alleged" business I ever heard about when I come to the crucial part of the latest alleged Tufnell story.

to see that: the fine for "conduct unbecoming to an England cricket-er": the fine in Enfield Magistrates Court after a dispute with his former girlfriend, mother of his child; his two-year absence from international The drugs-in-the-lav story pro-duces nothing but a weary sigh. Here we go again. And it would be Tufnell, despairing of him. cricket after a troubled tour of

'Leader of

to see him in his cricket whites. Americans call sports clothes a "uniform". The uniform of cricket whites makes players look what they are: strong individuals

with a shared purpose. Whites make some people look impossibly officer class, others like salt-of-the-earth sergeants, others like gungho privates. All these are recognis types, each with an accepted role in team dynamics. Even the most flamboyantly independent people play their parts in the mystery that turns individuals into a team.

But not Tufnell. One look at him is enough: a person permanently indigestible. He is leader of the Awkward Squad of one. He could make the mildest of sergeants apoplectic just by looking like himself. He doesn't need

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

to behave badly to exasperate: that is the wonder of it.

You can never put your finger on why this is. That, for captains and coaches and sergeants, must be the most exasperating thing of all. He does not bear any of the traditional trademarks of the team's stock individualist; no long hair, no customised uniform. It is not the hair, but the expression as he peers through it; it is not the uniform, but the language of the body beneath it. The cliche "free spirit" is visited on

such indigestible people, but that is

not right for Tufnell. I wrote a biography of another difficult leftarm spinner. Phil Edmonds, some years ago, when Tufnell was no doubt driving schoolteachers rather than a nation mad. And Edmonds was something of a free spirit, rejoicing in his role of Brearley-batter and know-all

be normal'

But Tufnell does not set himself up as a rebel, still less a free spirit. He really tries to be just like the rest; milk and honey. There has always. normal. And he has

صكذا من رلامل

tried all winter to be Good Boyo. But then he has tried to be good for most of his career. John Emburey has taken an elder-broth-

erly role in looking after this turbulent person, because "the kid can bowl", because Emburey is just like that, because Tufnell always needs and wants guidance. And he really tries. David Lloyd, the England, coach, has not stopped praising him all through the tour, and Tufnell has been trying his best, to take wickets, to avoid trouble, to be Good Boyo. The microphones around the wicket testify to the truth of this. One of the sounds of the winter has been Tufnell's groun of disbelief and disappointment at any ball that fails

And yet, and yet — on the last day of proper cricketing business, as England win an overseas Test series 2-0 and enter the long-promised land of victory, the talking point is not the heroics of Atherton, coming good at the end of a troubled tour, but of Tufnell, coming bad at the end of an untroubled winter.

Or allegedly bad: but even the allegations are enough to sour the been the theory that Tufnell will "grow up", but it is an in-eluctable fact of life 'He really that people either grow up at the approwants to

priate age or not at

Poor Tufnell, now 30, seems to have the curse of eternal youth. Perhaps his portrait in the attic reveals gravity, maturity and even happiness. But the Tufnell we see is indisputably a troubled man. The passive voice is appropriate here. Tufnell is one of those people whose role in life is, almost or completely despite himself, to be a vector for

He is not a troublemaker: he is the person troubles come to. He is not a rebel, but a man pursued by the furies. He is not a free spirit: but one for ever in the custody of his own

Negotiating a slippery poll

Flashpoints. Radio 4, 9.00pm.

The opinion polling missive at the last general election has made the coming election a crucial test for pollsters. So this edition of Flashpoints has particular significance. As Professor John Durant Flashpoints has particular significance. As Professor John Durant explains in the programme, misleading polls are by no means new explains in the programme. Dewey American Presidential election in and he takes the Truman-Dewey American Presidential election in 1948, in which the polls got it wrong in spectacular fashion, as the benchmark. He also explains what British polling organisations are doing to improve their forecasting and contrasts the very different approaches of pollsters at MORI and ICM. But will the key factor of 1992, when Conservatives tended to hide their intentions from pollsters, be any less likely to recur next time?

The Vegetable Patch: The Leck. Radio 4, 2.45pm.

The start of a series with a rare merit: each programme only lasts about ten minutes. There are all too few shorts on the radio but there about ten minutes. There are all too few shorts on the radio but there should be more, for short programmes give the schedules some rhythm, as Radio 3 has demonstrated with its interval feature during concerts. The Vegetable Patch is not just for gardeners, for it uses facts, music, recipes and background material to paint a word picture that is as much historical as horticultural. The first programme has the bonus of an unintended nod in the direction of What's My Line?, when it interviews Bill Williamson of the University of Durham: his father was a leek judge.

Peter Barnard

7.00mm Mark Raddiffs, includes 7.30 Newebeat 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, lockudes, 12.30pm Newsbest 2.00 Nicky Campball 4.00 Kevin Greening, includes the Drive-In 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00mm Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

8,00em Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up To Wogen 9,30 Kan Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 1,30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.08 John Dunn 7.00 Jim ted Stewert sub John Unter 7,000 and 1,000 and 1,000 and 1,000 and 5,000 and 5,000 and 6,000 and first of a new series which meets prominent Asians. This Week's guest is Machur Jahrey (1/6) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10,30 The Jamesons 11.45 The Self of the Earth (2/7) 12.05em Steve Medden

RADIO 5 LIVE

lationwide 7.00 Neva Extra with Valerie anderson 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Pool-sell Night, Coverage from Highbury of the Premierable clash between Areans' and Manchester United. Includes the results of the National Lottery 19,00 The regults of the National Lottery 10,00 The Select Line 11,00 News Ediz 12,05mm After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GBIT. News on the hour.5.30em Europe Today 8.30 Europe Today 7.15 Oit the Shell 7.30 Discovery 8.10 Words of Path 8.15. Concert Hall 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Andy Kershaw 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shell 11.30 A History of Solitah Thesters 12.55cm World Business Rethe Shell 11,30 A History of Bolish Thistere 12,05pm World Business Re-port 12,15 Britain Today 12,30 Compos-er of the Month 2,05 Outbook 2,30 Megainer 3,05 Sports Roundup 3,15 Concert Hall 4,15 World Today 4,30 BBC English 4,46 Britain Today 4,30 World Business Report 5,45 Sports Roundup 6,30 Discovery 7,05 Outbook 7,25 Words of Faith 7,30 Multitrack 9,15 Billiot Today 9,30 Multitrack 9,15 Billiot Today 9,30 Multitrack 9,15 7.25 Words of Fath 7.30 Multitrack 9.15
British Today 9.30 Meridian On Screen
10.30 World Today 10.45 Sports
Roundup 11.19 Science View 11.15
Country Style 11.30 Multitrack 12.30em
From Our Own Correspondent 12.45
British Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words
of Faith 2.30 Assignment 3.15 Sports
Roundup 3.30 Meridian Books 4.30
Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00em Mark Christa 6.00 Muse Head 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah. Simone 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto. Handel (Organ Concerto in B flet mejor, Op 4 No 6) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newsright, with John Brunning 7.30 Sonata. Poulenc (Cleritie Sonate) 8.00 Evening Concert. R. Streess (Also Sonata. Poulenc (Cleritie Sonate) 8.00 Evening Concert. R. Streess (Also Sonata. Concert. in A. micro. Op. 184. (Plano Concent in A minor, Op 16); Schubert (Symphony No 1 in D, D82) 10.00 Michael Mappin, includes Noctume 1.00mm Met Cooper

Uses 1,00pm Jeremy Clark 4,00 Nicly Home 7,00 Ptul Coyts (FM) / Robin Berks (AM) 10,00 Mark Forrest 2,00sm Reputal Land

(Overture on Themes by Offenbech); Liszt (Hungerien Rhapsody No 2 in C sherp

Pritzner in a new production by Nikolaus Lethnhoff. With Thomas Moser, tenor, Alan Held, bantona, Ryth Ziesak,

4.00 Choral Evensons, Live from

8.00em Os.Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Haydh (Symphony No 7 in C, Le Midi); Bax (Violin Concerto) Hildegard of Bingen (Columba Aspenti); Mozart (Plano Concerto No 27 In B minor)
5.50 Sounding the Century: Live from Covert Gerden:
Palestrine. The opens by

Hat, K525)
Morning Collection, with Peter Hoodsy, Includes Granger (The Warriors); Chopin (Two Nocturies, Op 62); Copland (Bellet: Rodeo)
Musical Encounters, with

Mary Miller, Includes Each (Cantata No 54); Mendelasolm (Variations Concertantes, Op 17); Stoellus (Seven Songs, Op

in Company of the West's Sure Contract Sure Contract (Symphony No 27 in G, K199); Mark Rainaden (Adrit In Your Dreams); Alen Bush (Symphony No 2, Nottingham); Bach (Orchestral Suite No 3 in D, BW 1088)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Pfiltzner

1.00pm The Birmingham
Lunchtime Concert. A
performance given in Studio
One, Pabble Mill, last Friday
by the Skampa Overtet.
Beethoven (String Quartet in
E minor, Op 59 No 2. Bring Quartet No 1, Kreutzer

Sonate)
Midweek Choice, Introduced by Susan Sharpe, Includes Dohnamyl (American Rhapsody); Lorizing (O Sancta Justita, Zer und Zimmerman): Hummel, arr Eichler (Sonata in E flat, op 5 No 3); Gerstwin (Rhapsody in Blue)

soprano, Randi Stene and Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzos, and Thomas Allen, baritorie. With the Royal baritorie. With the Royal
Opera House Chorus and
Orchestra under Christian
Thielemenn. Act 1
7.35 Why This Whole Game?
Caniel Johnson investigates
the opera a symbolic
significance
7.55 Palestrims Act 2
9.15 You is What You Ests.
Russell Davies introduces
more food from the America

more food from the American

South (3/5) 9,35 Palestrine Act 3 10,45 Right Waves. Includes a report from the opening night of Chelov's werrow staming Raiph Flennes. Plus Richard Coles explores the life and work of the German painter

Work or the German painter Lovis Corinth
11,30 Composer of the Week
Schumann (r)
12,30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Feisweather, Includes a session from Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz 1.00m Through the Night, with John Shee

WORD-WATCHING

station, overhauls Defiance on the way to

victory in the first of two heats in the London

University trials on the Tideway yesterday.

There was a distinctly international look to

the event, with one Olympic bronze medal-

winner, three 1996 world championship

finalists and five of the British under-23 team

from last year spread across the crews.

Magnanimity, in spite of a less satisfactory

Answers from page 43 MERACIOUS

est in the world.

THE sport of triathlon has !

looked at the London Mara-

thon and seen the future. The

British Triathlon Association

(BTA) is backing plans for a

London Triathlon this year

that is certain to be the biggest

staged in Britain and may

challenge Chicago as the larg-

Unashamedly copying the

successful marathon formula

of mass participation, elite

racing and fund-raising for

(b) Unadviterated, full-strength, pure. A longer form of mere, from the Latin merus. "I'll say one thing about Jones — whatever other people may say about him — you have to admit that all his sins and failings are meracious ones." COCKALORUM

(c) A self-important little prat. From High Cockalorum, a game said to be not unlike leapfrog. The exact rules of this game are obscure. But it seems to have been much like the childish game that is known today as Politics.

(a) Magical. As in Aegege artes, the magic arts. The Greek and tin word. It comes from the name of a mythical island found in the Odyssey, and off the coast of Italy so far as it is anywhere in geography rather than the imagination. There lived the pigfancier Circe, who took Aeaeae as her surname. There are not many other six-letter all-vowel words in English. Elegant, though not high-scoring for Scrabble.

(a) Not anonymous. From the Greek word for a name and having to do with names. A quaint little word. "And I'd appreciate it if you could stop sending me all those onymous letters," you might shout after your unwanted suitor, as he walks crestfallen down a crowded main street after your latest rebuff.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1 Rxf8! Kxf8 2 Rd8+ Kg7 (2 ... Ke7 3 Re8 is mate) 3 Rg8+ Kh6 4 g4 and the

mate threat of g5 forces material gain.

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and the state of t

Chris Brasher. "We see it becoming very

TRIATHLON: ORGANISERS REVEAL PLAN TO REPRODUCE LONDON MARATHON FORMULA IN TRIPLICATE

that triathlon has huge un-tapped potential. We are setting a target of 5,000 participants," Michael Smithwick, big." Elaine Shaw, the chief executive of the BTA, said. It will be the climax to the the event manager, said. To be held in Docklands on British grand prix series this year, and Shaw hopes that it September 21, the London may, in the long term, gain World Cup status. "We think Triathlon will bring to the capital some of the world's leading professionals while that, for a major event in this encouraging lesser mortals to have a go. It is hoped that the challenge of a triathlon country, including mass participation, London is the right place," she said. will appeal in much the same

A D B D - S DE

the vastly experienced Olympic medal-

winner, at stroke and, in two downstream

rows - one from Isleworth to Kew, and one

from Chiswick to the Bandstand - they won

by two-thirds of a length and half a length.

Defiance, stroked by Dave Hutchins, a British junior international, led the first beat

by three-quarters of a length after one minute before being overhauled. Magnanimity led

Beginning with a swim in West India Dock, incorporatway that more than 100,000 people were inspired to run a ing a cycle circuit out towards the City Airport and ending with a run in and around Canary Wharf, the event, should it achieve the numbers it is seeking, will require a bike transition area the size of Wembley Stadium. "We are aiming to be the biggest in the world," Smithwick said. "We are not going to be restricted

by lack of vision." The Mrs Ts triathlon in Chicago is presently the big-gest, attracting 5,000 partici-pants. Britain's largest is Royal Windsor, with 750 competitors last year. John Lunt, the Royal Windsor organiser. will be the London Triathlon race director. "This sport has always had so much potential but has never achieved it,"

Lunt said. There will be three categories in London: Olympic distance, sprint - with competit-

Capital gains from enduring challenge marathon through the work of ors sent off in waves according to age or ability - and corporate relay, in which companies Having run 45 marathons will enter teams of one swimand contested eight fronman

triathlons. Lunt is well placed

to judge how fit those drawn to

the challenge need to be. "If

you can run a marathon in

five hours, you can probably

do a triathlon in three hours,

he said. The wear and tear on

the body is less in a triathlon

because of the changing demand on muscle groups as competitors switch between

Promoted by Esprit, a London event marketing and

management company, the

London Triathlon is a

commerical exercise but, once

costs have been met and fees taken, profits will be split

As a European Triathlon

Union-approved event it will

offer equal prize-money to

men and women. Simon Les-

sing, the world champion,

from Britain, has been made

an appearance offer that Stefanie Scheer, his manager,

said he was considering. "It is

a great idea," Scheer said. "If

the circumstances are right I-

am sure Simon will go."
Smithwick said: "We also

hope that Spencer Smith [Brit-

ain's former world champion)

and the top Americans and

As with the London Mara-

than, the professionals get

paid, the amateurs pay: and

triathlons, being more expen-

sive to stage than marathons,

ask higher fees. Entry fees for

the London Triathlon are:

Olympic distance £38; sprint

530: corporate relay £117.50

"We are encouraged by the

charity appeal of the London

Marathon, Daniel Corbin.

Smithwick's assistant, said.

The event's adopted charities

will be London's Homeless

and the Soldiers, Sailors, Air-

men's and Families Ass-

Germans will compete."

equally with the BTA.

more than a half-length advantage. Maurice

Hayes, the university coach, who - in

Jeremy Howick, of Canada, and the Britons

Luke Nolan and Graham Smith - had three

other senior internationals on the sidelines,

said: "With the athletes available, we feel

confident we can go up a peg this year." The

university crew faces an early test next month

when they start second in the Tideway Head,

will be Olympic distance. The sprint alternative is to encourage entries, although Smithwick stressed: "We do not want to stop people from accepting the challenge of the Olympic distance. You do the

mer, one cyclist and one run-

ner. The sprint will be half the Olympic distance of 1,500 me-

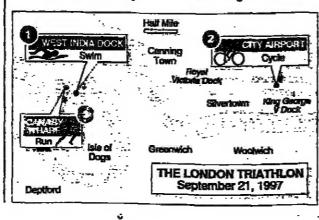
tres for the swim, 40 kilome-

tres for the ride and ten kilo-

metres for the run. The relay

THE 9-01-1X

Smith: may line up against the leading Americans



CYCLING

behind Leander. Five internationals also

raced in Wallace and Grommit, the univer-

sity women's coxless fours, yesterday.

Grommit, with Libby Henshilwood, the

captain, at No 3, emerged victors by one

length in a seven-minute race, having trailed

until the last 40 strokes. The same personnel,

in an eight, will be racing both the Oxford and Cambridge University women's Boat

Race crews over the next fortright.

Italians set minds to tour success

FROM PRITER BRYAN IN KOTA KINABALU

GIANNI BUGNO, of Italy, the former double world road race champion, has denied suggestions that he and Andrea Tafi, his Mapei team colleague, regard the 1,600-kilometre Tour of Langkawi that starts here today as a holiday. "We are here to win and see the race as an important part of our preparation for the new season," he said. The Mapei squad's entry,

together with that of a second Italian team, GB-Technogym, will out pressure on the other 23 teams - including Great Britain - who are racing for £270,000 in prize-money. The starting point of Kota Kinabalu, on Borneo, has

involved several teams in an exhausting travel schedule. The Italians were critical that the one time-trial in the race, that will determine the first wearer of the yellow jersey, is on the opening day, even though it is only 19 kilometres long. "We have been travelling for two days, arriving here late on Monday." Fabrizio Fabbri, the Mapei manager, said.

The trial starts with a short, steep climb, but after that the roads are mainly flat and at sea level. A series of sharp bends will make it what Bugno described as "a technical course", however. John Tanner, who took the

race leader's yellow jersey after the first stage last year, has drawn tenth starting position today, which will deprive him of the opportunity to benefit from progress reports of the majority of riders. David Rand, the national road race champion, has fared better, setting off at No 136, with Bugno last to start of the 150 competitors.

RADIO 4 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Stx O'Clock News

5.55em Shipping (LW) 6.00 News 6.10 Ferming 6.25 Prayer 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weether 6.00 Skr O'Clock News
6.30 Counterpoint. The general
knowledge music quiz hosted
by Ned Sharifr (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Face the Facts. John Waits
and his team of investigators
look into listeners' complaints
7.45 20/20: A View of the
Century. In the test of the re-Yesterbay a...
Weether
9.00 News 9.05 Mildweek, with
Times columnist Libby Purven Times constituted and great guests
10.00 News; A Good Rend (FM).
Sarah Dunant talks to the writer Will Self and the broadcaster Simon Bates Century. In the last of the current series, Michael lignetisti looks at the role of creativity in the 20th Century \$.50 Fresh Air. The last collection in the series of features by new radio talent \$.00 Flastispoints. See Choice (2/4)

about their fevourite paperback books 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) ers' Question Time,

11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Eric Robson (f). 12.00 Hervs; Yeir and Yours, with Lesiey Riddoch 12.25pm Rent, by Lucy Flannery. Staring Barbara Plynn and Patrick Barlow (4/6) 12.55: 1.00 The World at One, with Nick

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Pathicla's Progress.
The first part of Tony
Mulholland's political controly.

Mulnolland's political comedy
With Lucy Tregear and
Michael Lumsden (3/5)
2.45 The Vegetable Patch: The
Leck. See Choice (1/6)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleldoscope.
Paul Gambaccini reviews
Nora Ephron's Michael
stampe lote Treselis and

staming John Travolta and Alison Anders's Grace of My 4.46 Short Story: Food For

11.15 The Cooldbook of Apicius.
A series celebrating the delights of the encient Roman cook. With Keith Floyd (4/5)
11.30 Seymour the Fractal Cat. (FM). A comedy series about a taking cat by Gary Parker. With Greg Proops and John Hegley (1/5) (1)
11.30 Today in Partisment (LW)
12.00 News 12.30am The Latte Book: Regeneration, writien by Pat Barker. Read by Alice Amold (8/10) (8/10) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59

Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with

Robin Lusting
10.45 Book at Bedtime: House of
Spiendid Isolation. Written
and read by Edna O'Brian

(8/10)
11.00 Truly, Madiy, Bistchley. The comedy series written by and staning Julian Dution. With Liz Fraser, David Bettley and Toby Longworth
11.15 The Cookbook of Apictus.

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 196 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Poter Dear, Iam Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

(BBCZ). According to the

opening titles, we were about to

watch Sir Jeremy Isaacs talking to

Diana Rigg. Shouldn't that be

their honours more lightly than

But that's all by the by, especial-

decision to ditch the damehood for

interview was that it was very

good, with the old format (spoths

subject, unseen inquisitor) show-

ing that, every now and then, it can

still deliver. Much credit for that

belongs to Isaacs. Or do I mean Sir

It must have been tempting just

to flirt with her. Everyone, after all. flirts with Rigg and when she's in the right sort of mood, she flirts

The state of the s

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Macro 4

EVALENTS.

A STATE

SKY MOVES

There was a curious start to last night's Face to Face television. The only problem is that think the first "er..." came after 19 it's been done dozens of times minutes. before. So to get something new Flirting, however, turned out to required more than his "lady with be a pleasure postponed rather greatest actresses of her generation" flattery. Isaacs went high-

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1997

Dame Diana Rigg, I thought? I checked and indeed it should. Some people, it appears, wear brow — very highbrow.

Question three, for example,
was "what did you find in the text
of Martha's role in Virginia Woolf
that particularly appealed to you?"

I wanted for him to add that she ly as I have no doubt that the the occasion was Rigg's. The had three hours to answer and important thing about last night's would she please write on one side of the paper only, but he didn't. He

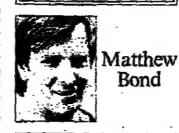
went on: "What is acting?"
Now, it must be said that Rigg
was definitely up for this sort of
questioning. Where others might
have said "Gosh, that's a difficult

the superior exterior, one of the than cancelled completely. For having taken us through her craft and the early years of a career that combined the Royal Shakespeare Company with Emma Peel, Isaacs turned to the stage roles that consolidated her reputation in the 1970s and 1980s. Jumpers for some reason came to mind. Lovely play. brilliant playwright, agreed Rigg.
"Taking your clothes off," he
mused all of a sudden, "is that a good idea?"

Looking back, no, replied Rigg with a look that said she knew exactly where this line of questioning was going. But then as far as she could recall, her nucle scene in one, can we start again?" or "Hang she could recall, her nude scene in on, can I have a think about it?"

she managed to answer each one was my back, wasn't it?" she (what's your first memory of answered slowly. "Or was it my pleasure in language?") thought burn?" Whichever it was had REVIEW

Under fire, there is nothing like a dame



clearly left an impression on Isaacs. "Hmm, hmm," he agreed from the darkness. "I think so, I think so."

Apart from the annoyance of creaking joints and the injustice of what she termed "the final crumble" not happening to men until much later. Rigg was very positive about getting older. Perhaps she could have a word with John Pilger, who despite being just the

right side of said crumble spent a self-absorbed hour on Network First (ITV) trying to turn the clock back 30 years. Back to the good old days of trade unions, picket lines and the Vietnam War. Back to the days when Pilger used to get his picture byline on the from page of the Daily Mirror.

As someone who currently gets a picture byline on the inside back cover of *The Times*, I know exactly how he feels. I'll be cross when somebody takes that away, but 111 be surprised if somebody gives me an hour of television to tell you why. Somebody, however - and for reasons that never became apparent - had given Pilger just

So having spent a dewy-eyed 20 minutes looking back at the glory years of the Mirror, he switched to attack. He blamed Robert Maxwell ('the great embezzler') for
turning his beloved paper into a
family photo album, and he
mathematician who appears destined to ensure that higher mathematics remains a complete
mystery to the rest of us. Last

blamed Rupert Murdoch ... well, for everything else. The accusations were familiar, but what was not was the sight of first Hugh Cudlipp, the Mirror's distin-guished former Editor-in-Chief, and then Lewis Moonie, Labour's spokesman on broadcasting, rallying to Murdoch's defence.

But as Pilger railed against the dying of once-fashion-able left-wing causes (let's have more labour disputes on the front pages), he never once stopped to consider that it might be he who was to blame. That the world had moved on and he hadn't Never mind, I would say that, wouldn't I just remind me that I wrote it when my own time comes.

Finally it was time for my weekly fix of Fisher Dilke, the

night, in The Number Game (BBC2), he was at it again with Bayesian statistics. Bayesian what? Don't ask me - all I know is that it's a great help when you've got your yellow balls and red balls mixed up and second to none at telling whether spots on the face mean you also have measles. But according to the well-intentioned Dilke, it is a precise way of dealing

with uncertainty.
Unfortunately, the best-known application of Bayes theorem to the real world involved a rape case, a subject that did not sit easily with Dilke's jaunty manner or prove very enlightening.

The fact that the conviction was

quashed on appeal turned out to have nothing to do with statistics and DNA samples and everything to do with the fact that the original trial judge had been so busy explaining Bayes theorem to the jury that he forgot to direct them properly. I sympathised.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (48277) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (43635) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (8635987) 9.20 Style Challenge (1292426) 9.45 Kilroy (6623890) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (88635) 11.00 News (T) and weather (6209093) 11.05 The Really Useful Show (3100242) 11.35 Change That (5011971) 12.00 News (T) and weather (6218819) 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5894967) 12.30 Going for a Song (7178722) 12.55 The Weather Show (34129068) 1.00 News (T) and weather (46722) 1.30 Regional News (98119451) 1.40 Neighbours (T) (20615242) 2.05 Police Rescue (T) (9018345) 2.55 Put it to the Test (2880068)

3.20 Holiday Outlings Bahla in Brazil (r) (3303285) 3.30 Playdays (r) (1597432) 3.50 Chucklevision (1411068) 4.10 Popaye and Son (3691906) 4.35 The Wild House (T) (6012600) **5.00** Newsround (T) (7986068) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (1269242)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (317161) 6.00 News (T) and weather (684) 6.30 Newsroom South East (364)

7.00 Noel's Telly Years Singer and presenter Cheryl Baker and jockey Bob Champion recall some of the highlights of 1981 (T) 7.30 Tomorrow's World British Olympic hurdler Colin Jackson tests a newly

designed starting block Plus; how a magnetic scanner is helping bereaved parents discover why bables die, without having to tace an autopsy (1) (548) 8.00 The National Lottery Live Cathy Dennis

sings her latest hit, Waterloo Sunset, before pressing the millionalre-making button (1) (789567) 8.15 25 Years of the Two Ronnies Classic cornecty clips (1) (529242)

8.50 Points of View (386529) 9.00 News (T) and weather (8345) 9.29 National Lottery Update (250364)

Insiders New drama series set in an open prison on the Suffolk coast. With Robert Cavennah, Bill Nighy and Julia Ford (1) (280703)

10.25 Sportsnight presented by Desmond Lynem Football: Highlights of Arsenal's top-of-the-table FA Premiership cleah with Manchester United at Highbury; Tennis: Ray Stubbs presents a profile of Tim Henman, Britain's highest-ranked

player for 20 years (245890) 11.25 FILM: Darkman (1990) with Liam Neeson, Frances McDormand and Colin Friels. A grotesquely distigured acientist plote a gruesome revenge on the vicious gangsters responsible for mutilating his stures. Homor thriller directed by Sam

Raimi (692529) 12.55cm FLM: Lifeline to Victory (1993) with Michael Riley, Simon Revnolds, Michael Hogan and Henry Czemy. Second World War drama about a troubled sea captain. Directed by Eric Till (996138) 2.30-2.35 Weather (8640049)

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The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode - numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus-T mendest. Tap in the Video Plus-Code for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus-("), Pluscode (") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Germster Development Ltd. BBC2

6,00em Open University: The Emergence of Greek Mathematics (6599345) 6,45 From Micro to Maintrame (6501180) 6,50 Isomorphism (5405426) 7,15 News (1) 7,30 Captain Cavernan (1498426) 7,55 Record Breekers Gold (r) (T) (7985971) 8.20 Teddy Trucks (9730684) 8.25 Spot (1369971) 8.35 The Record (9064703) (1369971) 8.35 The Record (9064703) 9.00 Jeunes Francophones (1378432) 9.25 Sea You, See Me (8645364) 9.45. Words and Pictures (3911987) 10.00 Pleydays (25797) 10.30 Numbertime (7795285) 10.45 Cats' Eyes 11.00 Around Scotland (2112797) 11.20 Music Makers (7280242) 11.40 Science in Action (1483600) 12.00 Spanish Globo (8000161) 12 05 panish Globo

(6209161) 12.05pm History File (5892529) 12.30 Working Lunch (24971) 1.00 Geography Programme (15811819) 1.20 Thunderbirds in French 1.25 Zig. Zag 1.45 Come Outside 2.00 Teddy Trucks (i) 2.05 Spot (i) 2.16 Everyone's Got One 3.00 News (i); Westmirster (2499722) 3.55 News (ii); Today's the Day (277) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (161) 5.00 Esther (9616) 5.30 The Village (316432) 5.55 Turning Points (733548) 8.00 Star Treic The Next Generation (r) (1)

6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmission impossible (232529)

7.00 Hancock (b/w) (r) (T) (2180) Counterblast Scientific writer Nicholas Booth axemines the

doom merchants' predictions of environmental disasters (f) (890) 8.00 Della Smith's Winter Collection (r) (f) 8.30 Rick Stein's Fruits of the See Rick

prepares a region of turbot and scallops for the Royal Navy (T) (7835) 9.00 The Aristocracy Who has and who has - not cashed in on the tourist industry. Last in saries (1) (195155) A Women Called Smith An 18-part series about women who share the same sumame, beginning



Jonathan Meades and co (10,00pm)

Even Further Abroad: Remember the Puture: Times columnist. Jonathan Meades returns once more to search for the quin-

10.30 Newsmight (T) (652703) 11.15 This Life (r) (1) (817971) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (75812)

12.30mm The Learning Zonet O.U. The Ocean Floor (82933) 1.00 Jamaica and the See (89407) 1.30 Fertility Management (7) (95556) 2.00

tessentially British (T) (78258)

Documentary Scrapbook (72865) 4.00 English Heritage (48223) 4.30 Unicef in the Classroom (60372) 5.00 Modem Apprenticeships (46204) 5.30 Voluntary

CHOICE Counterblast: The End of the World?

BBC2: 7.30pm BBC2: 7.30pm

When Nicholas Booth takes on the environmental lobbyists and accuses them of overstating their case, whether on global warming or the depletion of the ozone tayer, you are entitled to wonder about his credentials. It takes guts to fly in the face of orthodoxy, even if it is orthodoxy of comparatively recent vintage. In fact Booth is deputy editor of this newspaper's Interface supplement and if you are reluctant to believe him, he calls expert witnesses to back up his charges. One of the principal arguments of the film is that the greenhouse effect is not the most important factor in climate change. Another is that the explosion climate change. Another is that the explosion of foreign holidays in the sun, rather than the depletion of the ozone layer, is the main reason for the increase in skin cancer.

Insiders: Vat Man

BBC1, 9.30pm As Porridge demonstrated, prison is the ideal site for dramatic conflict. There are ready-made tensions between prison officers ready-made tensions between prison officers and farmates, and further sources of friction between those serving time and their loved ones at home. Instders neglects none of these possibilities and since it is the creation of Licy Gannon, of Peak Practice and Soldier, Soldier, well-crafted middlebrow fare is guaranteed. Gannon pays deliberate homage to Porridge at one point but she rings the changes on the genre by making her prison an open one. This means, among other thines, the change for a better class of other things, the chance for a better class of villain. Tonight's leatured immate is a minor aristocrat (Bill Nighy) who has been done for tax fraud. Perhaps the plot is fuelled by too many coincidences, but it rolls smoothly along and grips to the end,

A Woman Called Smith BBC2, 9.50pm

Given its format, this series of ten-minute films could run for centuries. As the title implies, each programme features a female Smith. As there are at least 800,000 already. and more born every year, the material should never run out. Sarah Smith, a 19year-old from Dudley, is first on screen. She is the mother of a five-year-old boy, so it takes no feat of arithmetic to work out how young she was when she gave birth. In the unexplained absence of the father, she and young Darryl live with her parents. They were upset at first but have become supportive. So much so that they both work overtime to pay for her passion of ballroom dancing. The cameras follow her to Blackpool for the final of the under-21 championship. It is a small film but a measy

Even Further Abroad With Jonathan BBC2, 10.00pm

As readers of his restaurant critiques in this newspaper will know, Jonathan Meades is no mean wordsmith. As viewers of his supplements his clever word play with an extravagant visual style, courtesy of a cameraman willing to look for the oddest angles and an editor alert to the jumplest cuts. Content is something else and even after half an hour of brilliant prose and dazzling images, it is not absolutely clear what Meades is on about. He appears to say that he was to say the transfer of the content of th what Meades is on about. He appears to say that having gone new technology mad in the 1960s, Britain has regressed and is facing the future through the past. Buildings are the raw material for Meades's argument. He seems to like 1960s power stations and university campuses and to louthe the Prince of Wales's model village in Dorset. But this could be appear. Peter Waymark could be wrong.

HTV

6.00em GMTV (1108155) 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1373345) 9.55 Regional News (T) (5358109) 10.00 The Time, the Place (18451) 10.30 This Morning (33538068) 12.20pm Regional News (T) (6207703) 12.30 News (T) and weather (1004364)

12.55 Shortland Street (T) (9544646) 1.24 HTV Crimestoppers (98302971) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (15601432) 1.50 Afternoon Live (20793074) 2.20 Vanessa (30692074) 2.50 Alternoon Live (5809616)

3.20 News (T) (9703221) 3.25 Regional News (T) (9818502) 3.30 Tota: TV (7316906) 3.40 The Blobs (9934088) 3.50 Roger and the Rottentrols Election Special (7) (7310722) 4.05 Gogglewatch: Gags of Goggles (T) (2289884) 4.15 Woof! (9685345) 4.46 Gogglewatch: Gags of Goggles (2812161) 4.55 Gogglewatch Competition (7) (200563)

Competition (1) (3920529) 5.10 Look and Cook (r) (7659345) 5.40 News (T) and weather (762242) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (193744)

6.25 HTV Weather (347890) 6.30 HTV News (T) (432) 7.00 Emmerdale Marion and Butch investigate Barry's secret (T) (6906)



Beverley Callard as Liz (7,30pm)

continues his attempts to woo Liz McDonald (T) (816) 8.00 The Match -- Live! Cocs-Cols Cup -Semi-Final, First Leg Bob Wison introduces coverage from Edgaley Park of the clash between Stockport County

and Middlesbrough (T) Followed by National Lottery Result (6664) 10.00 News (T) and weather (92884) 10.30 Regional News (T) (973971) 10.40 FILM: F/X: Murder by Illusion (1986) with Bryan Brown, Brian Dennehy and Diene Venora. A special effects expert is

hired to stage the mock hilling of a Mafia gangster. But his stunt turns out to be too life-like and he becomes the larget of hitmen. Directed by Robert Mandel 12.40am Dating the Enemy (8518310) 1.40 Fit.M: Always Remember I Love You (1990) with Patry Duke, Stephen Dorff and David Brney. A family are forn apart when a 16-year-old discovers his was adopted from birth, matter are made worse when the family are told the doctor who handled the adoption dealt in stolen babies. Directed by Michael Miller

(359117) 3.35 Not Fede Away (2341594) 4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (T) (64198) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (33730) 5.30 News (25317)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12,55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (7188109) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7658345) 6,25-7.00 Central News (692161) 1,45em The Chart Show (662310) 2,45 Comedy Central (653662) 3.45 Central Jobfinder '97 (189827) 5.20 Asian Eye (2474339)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6207703) 12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (7188109) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7659345) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (68056)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7188109) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7659345) 6.00 Meddian Toolght (180) 6.30-7.00 Home Truths (432)

5.00am Freescreen (33730) ANGLIA

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6226836) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7188109) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7659345)

6.25-7.00 Angila News (692161) SAC Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (31987) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (36345) 9.00 Bewitched (75161) 9.30 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (2094161) 9.55 The Crystal Maze (9131987) 10.55 Back to the Future (4299258) 11.20 The Legend of White Fang (2116513)

11.45 Rocko's Modern Life (1566967) 12.00 House to House (99797) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (22567) 1,00 Slot Melthrin (39432)

action thriller with Richard Widmark, Gary Merrill and Jeffrey Hunter. Widmark heads an underwater demolition team against the Japanese in the Pacific. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (76129616)

3.15 Scrimpers (2144600) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (838) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (345)

4.30 Wings: Out of the Wilderness (529) 5.00 5 Pump (1884) 5.30 Countdown (109) 8.00 Newyddion 6 (444780)

6.05 Heno (913242) 6.35 Jecpot (354180) 7.00 Pobol v Cwm (665513) 7.25 Ffermio (720838)

8.00 Hawilo (7068)

8.30 Newyddion (2703) 9.00 Spin City Comedy with Michael J. Fox. Ashley has a chance of a lifetime (8155) 9,30 Roseanne Roseanne and Jackie check into an exclusive health spa (58613)

10.00 Brookside (978616) 18.35 ER Abby teaches Peler Benton zome lough lessons (155838) 11.30 Dressing for Breakfast (12277)

12.00em Under the Moon (291759) 2.30 NBA XXL (34551) 4,30 Trans World Sport (2439407)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (31987) 7.00 The Big Breaklast (36345) 9.00 Bewitched (r) (75161) 9.30 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (1) (2094161) 9.55 The Crystal Maze (r) (9131987) 10.55 Back to the Future (r) (9131987) 10.35 63ck to the nutrie (1) (4299258) 11.20 The Legend of White Fang (r) (2116513) 11.45 Rocko's Modern Life (156987) 12.00 House to House (99797) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (22567) 1.00 Cybill (r) (T) (39432) 1.30 Pat and Mat (11207451)

1.50 FILM: Down Argentine Way (1940) with Dom Ameche and Betty Grable. Musical with a hint of romance. Directed by Irving Cummings (18601906)

3.30 Collectors Lot (1) (838) 4.00 Fitteen-to-One (1) (345) 4.30 Countdown (1) (529) 5.00 Rick Lake Let's Elope and Let Them Cope (T) (1884) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (109)

6.00 Party of Five Claudia seeks supernatural help for her family problems (T) (161616) 6,50 Fresh Pop (870838) 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) and weather

(826819) 7,55 The People's Agenda (267635) 8,00 Brookside Tinhead puls Leo in danger

with his new toy (T) (7068) 8,30 Travelog Andy Kershaw visits one of the world's poorest countries --Mozambique. The tormer Portugese colony, which now enjoys a peaceful democracy after years of civil war, is rich in culture and history, though Kershaw desents the 2,500km of beaches to discover its kwisiola elaphants, cardboard televisions and on a more serious note, discovers the problems facing the people as a result of the landmines left

over from the war (1) (2703) 9.00 Fortuen TV Father Lionel Fanthorpe Investigates medical maggets, a canine apparition and Britain's answer to the Holy Graul (T) (8155)

9.30 Bress Eye Controversial comedy from Chris Morris (T) (58813)



10.00 ER: No Brain, No Gain Abby teaches Benton some harsh lessons. Carter clashes with another intern and begins a clandestine relationship. Susan (Sherry Stringfield) shocks Mark (7) (3161)

11,00 Friends: The One Where Ross Finds Out Ross discovers Rachel's feelings when she leaves a confusing message on his answerphone (r) (7) (3600) 11.30 Cheers Drake has a hidden agenda

when he promotes Sam above Rebecca (r) (T) (12277)

12.00 Under the Moon Danny Kelly and Tim Clark host more sporting chat. Includes reports on the two Cocs-Cola Cup semifinals (291759) 2.30 am NBA XXL (34551)

(\$486819) 12.55 Tempesti (1085967) 1.40 Gordon Electi (9866074) 2.30 The Hist is On (4343432) 3.00 Take a Letter (7806109) 3.30 73/ks/cout (4706797) 4.65 Jeny Springer (1570667) 5.05 Lingo (66160529) 5.30 Lucky (Jadders (4345498) 6.00 1 Dream of Joannie (8732987) 6.35 Ready, Decet. (15676814) 2.76 Repositor

Dream of Joannie (87.5/95/) 63.55 Teady, Seady, Cook (166.0844) 7.08 Encolastic (1800345) 7.40 Who's Sorry Now? (2219703) 8.08 Polonda (4195364) 9.09 FULN: Broken Pleadges (8)04884) 17.00-12.00 Sex Life Down Under (9644695)

\$.00pm Prize Time (6874513) 5.85 Biochousters (1228180) 5.35 Prize Time (217242) 5.50 Spelbound (120242) 6.20 Prize Time (247871) 6.30 Catchphrase (606180) 6.55 Prize Time (597513) 7.05 Sale of the Century (575906) 7.20 Prize Time (158068) 7.40 Gives Us a Clue (745838) 8.10 Prize Time (771083) 8.20 Al Clued Up (698616) 8.50 Prize Time (912422) 9.00 Through the Keyhola (364428) 9.25 Prize Time (814451) 9.35

(36.4426) 9.25 Prize Time (81.4451) 9.35 Busman's Holiday (259155) 10.00 Prize Time (836567) 10.05 Treasure Hunt (724242) 11.05 Prize Time (858638) 11.20

Trace Trace Irray (2000) 11.45 Pros Time (742838) 12.00 Sate of the Century (20014) 12.30em Hart to Horr (81001) 1.30 Lou Gram (13846) 2.30 Snowy Renc — the McGregor Saga (76498) 3.30 All Together Now (17914) 4.00-6.00 The Fall Guy

7,00em Jeagran 7,30 News and Euroneus, 8,00 Geene Anpane 8,30 Maa 9,00 Bengeli Senal; Ebar Junbo Mewie 9,30 Abhinelin 10,00 Tara 11,00 The Low Cal

Provided Hamiltonian Company Company 1.30 Dence Mema 12.00 Caraat 12.30pm Wah Janaab 1.00 FILM: Alk Se Badkar Alk 4.00 Punic Demand 5.00 ZEE Zone 5.30 Aki Jaja 6.00 Campus 6.30 ZEE Zone 5.30 Aki Jaja 6.00 Campus 6.7 Zee

CHALLENGE TV

4.30 Transworld Sport (15730) 5.30 Beckdate (r) (T) (25399)

A -- 5 Tale . -• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory. published on Saturday SKY 1

8.00em Morring Glory (492093) 9.00 Regis and Kathle Lee (18543) 10.00 Another World (97425) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (1854) 12.00 The Oprah Windley Show (5058) 1.00pas Gerako (49258) 2.00 Sally Jessy Represi (48258) 3.00 Jerny Jones (78384) 4.00 The Oprah Windley Show (183819) 5.00 Star Tesk: The Next Generation 12155) 6.00 Red TV (1345) 6.30 Married — with Children (9797) 7.00 The Simpsons (1884) 7.30 Marks 11 (1109) 8.00 non Credien (#977 7,00 ine sampsons (3884) 7,50 MPATSTH (1109) 8,00 Sgittings (61141) 9,00 Sik Stallangs (91635) 10,00 Marder One (91722) 11,00 Star Trek: The New Generation (98155) 12,00 IAPD (45914) 12,30 ms The LLD/ Show (38855) 4 the Lab (10075050)

7,00pm Heralios. The Legendary Journeys (5592180) 8,00 Renegade (5405600) 9,00 New York Undercover (5598561) 10,00 Water Rats (5591651) 11,00 Line Show with David Letterman (5867548) 12,00 H4 Miss Long Play (7281575)

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on

6-30cm Semeone Ese's Child (1994) (94616) 8.00 Singerosch (1965) (60636) 10.00 Linia Rig Langua (1994) (55819) 12.00 The Binck Stallion Returns (1989) 12.00 The Black Stallion Returns (1983) (43161) 2.00pm (he Man with One Red Shoe (1988) (24161) 3.40 Fets is the Hunter (1964) (943103) 5.30 Hercuites and the Circle of Fire (1984) (41157) 7.30 E News Week (827) 8.00 Top Dog (1964) (61105) 10.00 Heunded (1995) (797) 11.55 Red Shoe Diarles: High (1996) (1995) (20527) 1.25m Fed Taile (1995) (259778) 2.50 Double Cross (1994) (6792827) 4.20 Hercules and the Circle of Fire (1996) (704310)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

(1950) (45181) 12.00 Brothers' Desting (1996) (41703) 2.00pm The Assazing Pende Adventure (1995) (83618) 4.00 This Werrier: Trappiet on Toy World (1995) (8529) 6.00 Heart and Sotts (1993) (95180) 8.00 The Next Karete Idd (1994) (\$1187) 10.00 The Crainé Sue-pacts (1995) (82380) 11.45 The Wrong Woman (1995) (183242) 1.20eo Schense (1995) (185339) 3.00 Porbid-der Choloss (1994) (531869) 4.40 The den Choless (1894) (S31865) 4-40 The Amening Pande Adventure (1985) (5797682)

SKY MOVIES GOLD 6.00pm The Leston Drop IGd (1981) (8102428) 8.00 The Party (1988) (8107971) 10.00 Allens: The Director's Cut (1985) (11817635) 12.35em House of Genes (1987) (8937020) 2.20 Rehum of the Bod Med (1948) (42679846) 3.50-6.46 Call Me Madam (1963) (3588662)

CARTOON NETWORK/INT nucus certains from Sem to Span, Communicus controlle from Sem to Spins, then TNT time as tollows 9.00pes The Adventures of Robin Flood (1938) (29684616) 11.00 High Society (1958) (80342180) 12.55 Creat of the Wave (1954) (55006927) 2.35 The Hear of Thirteen (1952) (71088049) 4.00-5.00 THE DISNEY CHANNEL

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sty Movies Gold taken over at 10pm.
6.00ms Big Garage (627867) 6.15

Muppet Batnes (9885613) 8.40 The Care
Bears (3495722) 7.05 Enchanted Tales:
The Prince and the Patipes (1498819) 7.45

The Little Mermaid (2331074) 8.20 Alacidin (5849451) 8.45 Cusck Pack (4302242) 9.10

Brand Spanking New Doug (6335039) 9.35

Mojrly Ducies (4708891) 10.00 Good Troop (2634731) 18.25 Darkwing Duck (8511180) 10.50 Timon and Pumbae (8269161) 11.15

Bonkers (185093) 11.45 Cusck Alack (7410897) 12.10pm Mouse Tracks (7410897) 12.10pm Mouse Tracks (7410897) 1.00 Pippper (9391190) 1.45

Timon and Pumbae (94857797) 2.00 FILME Man of the House (595160) 3.40 Environ (180722) A.05 Goot Troop (8760880) 4.30

Chack Pack (2068) 5.00 Alackin (9352242) 5.20 Flash Fowerd (6302277) 8.45 Timon and Pumbae (685345) 6.00 Mighy Ducks (9161) 8.30 Boy Mech World (7513 7.00 Almost Horne (1860) 7.30 Dr Cuimi (833987) 9.00 Life's Work (85529) 9.30-10.00 Golden Cirtle (94345)

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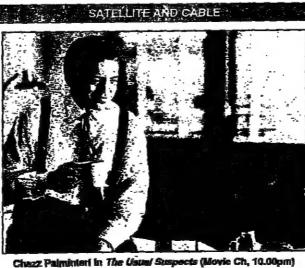
FOX KIDS NETWORK ## FOX KIDS NETWORK

ADDR## Three Little Choesis (7438-20) ### ADDR## ADDR#

SKY SPORTS 1 7.0bam Sports Centre (2010s) 7.30 Wiresstarg: Blear Off (10835) 8.30 Recorg News.
47977) 9.00 Daytone 500 (78236) 12.00
Aerobus Ct Style (21967) 12.30 per Footbut: (88180) 2.30 Pergotic Bosing (21425)
4.30 Hell of Fame — Dino Zolf (2425) 4.58
Sports Centre (8039236) 5.00 Wiresting:
Challenge (2656) 6.00 Sports Centre (8519)
6.30 Grase Roots Rugby (7971) 7.50
Footbelt: Arsenal v Manchester United —
1Me (9425629) 10.30 Sports Centre (11334)
11.00 Sportser (16529) 12.00 Sports Centre
(83198) 12.30 per Futbol Mundled (77049)
1.00 Cholest: New Zealand v England —
Live (1947049) 4.30 Sports Centre (14730)
5.00 Cricket: New Zealand v England —
Live (1947049) 4.30 Sports Centre (14730)
5.00 Cricket: New Zealand v England —
Live (8770310)

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 Snocker: International Open -- Live (85021188) 5.00pm Mororsport (86738906) 5.30 Golf Extra (78611513) 7.00 Snooker: International Open — Live (54887426) 18.00-11.30 Golf Extra (15480828)

EUROSPORT 7,90mm Athletics: Meeting Vinel Pas de Calate (2557) 9,00 Speed Stanng (95548) 11,00 World Cup Legends (13432) 12,00 Bosing Special: Roy Jones Jr (43155) 12,30pm Stang Playute (70797) 1,00 Stant (24548) 1,30 X-2ore (79068) 2,00 Terrus: EC Chemponiship — Live (504277) 6,00 Terrus: Harrower WIA Tournament (2797) 6,00 Motors (51818) 7,00 Terrus: EC Chemplonship — Live (32513) 9,00 Dans



(24987) 10.00 Orag Racing (44884) 10.30 Tennis: ATP Your (24426) 11.30-12.30am Tennis: Hannover WTA Tournignent (26787)

6.00mm The Krypton Factor (9574190) 6.30

GRANADA PLUS

Busent the raypoon Factor (\$4.4190) \$300 Tickle on the Turn (80716354) \$4.84 Alexan's Music (41480242) 7.00 Alexan's (7850425) 7.16 Tickle on the Turn (4077690) 7.30 \$686767, \$4.160 \$68677 7.50 Josés Smith (8856797) \$.00 Classoc Coronation Shreet (2572867) \$3.00 Factifies (2572867) \$3.00 The Professorials \$7743881 10.00 A Fine Professorials \$7743881 10.00 A Fine The Professionals (9774398) 10,00 A Fine Professionals (9774398) 10,00 A Fine Remarker (9685258) 10,30 Mineral Blessings The Professionals (87/4/340) 10,00 A Final Remarker (888256) 10.30 Minato Blessings (2884722) 11.00 Within These Walls (39839) 91 (2.00 Classic Conomition Street (2575074) 12.00 pm Families (2088257) 1.00 Crown Court (3887255) 1.20 The Kryston Factor (3418708) 2.00 A Family of War (3866987) 3.00 Facolotic (2017277) 4.00 The Doctor Sense (165580) 4.30 A Fine Romarcoe (6161384) 5.00 The Professionals (3858345) 8.00 Classec Coronation Street (6159629) 6.30 Familios (6173700) 7 00 The Doctor Sense (3858074) 7.30 7.00 The Doctor Sener (2659074) 7.90 Mixed Biassings (5162093) 8.00 Floodfide (1957616) 9.00 Classic Coronason Street (5560839) 9.35 The Good Life Guide (4064890) 10.00-11.00 The Prof

GRANADA GOOD LIFE From 8.00mm-8.00 TV High Street From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine

From 12.00-3.00pm Heath and Result From 3.00-8.00 Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL 4.00pm Biography: The Virgin Many (3784635) 5.00 History Alve (4520548) 6.00 Our Century (3265109) 7.00-8.00 Biography: Emperor Historic (1284884) THE SCHFI CHANNEL

8.00pm Fil.M: Alien (1979) (4694516) 10.30 Fil.M: Dune (6511108) 1.00am The Twistri Zone (6914196) 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected (2834730) 2.00 100 Years of Horror (9127020) 2.30 Fod Serling's hight Gallery (9113867) 2.00-4.00 Friday the 13th (3044681) TLC/DISCOVERY

9.80nm The Joy of Parring (2901836) 9.30 Grow Your Own (7604613) 10.00 Surprise Chels (7035635) 10.30 Our House (290722) 11.00 The Parried House (7029155) 11.30 This Old House (702084) 12.00 Smply Delicitus Medis (2981074) 12.30pm Graham Herr (6508249) 1.00

House (2710635)
DISCOVERY Mains over at 4.00pm,
4,00pm Pshing Adventures II (2826242)
4.30 Bush Tusker Man (2826242) 5.00
Connectors 2 (589839) 5.30 Beyond
2000 (2719905) 5.00 Widt Things (4554396)
7,00 Beyond 2000 (5808074) 7.30 Mysterous Forces Beyond (2623155) 8.00 Mysterous Forces Beyond (2623155) 8.00 Mysterous Forces 9,000 Unexplained (9772221)
10.00 Discovery Signature Transplant
(9627398) 11.00 Wemons Classic Wheele
(973643) 1.00mm Roadshow (5450407)
1.30-2.00 Wind of Advertures (4544440) UK GOLD

7.00mm Tobystack (7864890) 7.36

1930/1831 (1330 New Perform 1931 (1331 153) 10,30 The Sulfivare 1996/180) 11,00 Sheesting (1555567) 12,00 Crosstoads 19834331 12,30pm Neg/hous (1703267) 1,00 EastEndors (9074564) 1,35 Rose (8341884) 2,15 A Lulle Bt of Dawson (61982155) 2,25 Sonyl (225680) 3,00 Tellystock (5618451) 3,35 The Bd (2712093) 4,000 All Creatures Great and Small (7119093) 5,000 Bob's Full House (5249690) 5,400 Crossroads (6896513) 6,05 EastEnders (3150277) 6,400 Bruce Folsym's EasiEnders (315027) 6-00 Place Policy Pro-Generation Game (6166203) 7-50 Ary You. Being Servict? (5842797) 8-30 Places Abbot (5805967) 9-00 The But (7114277) 8-30 The Paradise Club (9007074) 10-35 Bottom (3115161) 11-15 Live at Jongleuns (3189180) 11-45 FILM: And New the Screening Starts (5560345) 1-20em Marin Vice (2705001) 2-10 Shopping at

8.00em Hellway Across the Galacy and Turn Left (95600) 8.30 Ocean Octyobay (14245) 7.80 Escape from Jupiter (35277) 7.30 Pack Gordon (41884) 8.00 Belman 7.30 Flash Gordon (11894) 8.09 betman (8425) 8.30 Demis the Mensoc (83797) 9.00 Earthworm Jim (70277) 9.30 Bobby's World (16657) 10.00 Romuald the Reindear (15971) 10.20 brogood (89161) 11.00 Danger Mouse (51567) 11.30 Gravedale High (56069) 12.00 Oscar's Orchestra (87513) 12.30pm Art Abbod (14155) 1.00 Arm of Green Gables (15838) 2.00 Ocean Odyssey (3250) 2.30 Escape from Jupier (1906) 3.00 Batman (5093) 3.30 Flash Gordon (6451) 4.00 Earthworn Jim (2256) 4.20-5.00 Dennis the Manaca (8342) NICKELODEON

6.00ara Teenage Mutent Hero Turtles (45616) 6.30 Biker Mice from Mers (90093) (45816) 6.30 Biver More from Mars (90093) 7.00 Captian Smiler (21451) 7.30 Tales from the Copysteeper (17258) 8.00 Brunc the Kid (48242) 8.30 Hey Arnold! (45513) 9.00 Rugeats (22093) 9.30 Rugeats (72155) 10.00 Asahri Real Monsters (81345) 10.30 Doug (38277) 11.00 Rocke's Modern Lie (30203) 11.30 Baley Kupper (80782) 12.00 Konan and Kei (29529) 12.30pm The Secret World of Alex Mach (76971) 1.00 Sets Skate (20722) 1.30 Moesher (7542) 2.00 The Ferals (5884) 2.30 Wishbore (5883) 3.00 Sidden' Around (7819) 3.30 Asahrii Real Monsters (4884) 4.30 Asahrii Real Monsters (4884) 4.30 Asahrii Real Real Monsters (4884) 4.30 Azehni Real Monsters (4448) 5.00 Asahni Real Monsters. (2364) 5.30 Asahiri Real Monsiers (7548) 6.00 Press Geng (7161) 6.30-7.00 Are You Alread of the Dark? (5513)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (9600) 7.30 Bossenne (1797) 8.00 Ressonn (9548) Roseanne (1797) 8.00 Roseanne (8548) 8.30 Menty Pytron't Flying Crous (4155) 8.00 Cheers (93528) 8.20 Tax (66625) 10.00 B's Garry Shandling's Show (20258) 10.30 Fraziler (3906) 11.00 Armstrong and Miler (98074) 13.00 Monty Pytron's Plying Crous (97529) 12.00 The Critic (74440) 12.30am Soap (68391) 1.00 Cheers (31407) 1.30 Tax (47556) 2.00 Entertain-ment (8) (26642) 2.30 Armstrong and Miller ment Uk: (76643) 2.30 Armstrong and Mille (95/78) 3.00 Frasier (11643) 3.30-4.00 II's Garry Shandling's Show (79730)

BRAVO 8.00pm Robocop (4126123) 9.00 The New Yesight Zone (7106345) 9.30 The New Yesight Zone (5004839) 10.00 Tour of Duty (2522744) 11.00 Fill.M: Rebid Grangles (4664258) 10.00mm Robocop (2142894) 2.00 Tour of Duty (6763310) 2.00 Fill.M: Rebid Grangles (2761933) 5.00 The New Yesight Zone (9745117) 5.30 The New Yesight Zone (5830310)

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and You 7.00 Kamai Kombination 7.30 Baregi Apre Basi 8.00 News and Euronows 8.30 Dastean 9.00 Pather 10.00 Hit Tru He Hal 10.30 Purush Kshetra 11.00 Memo Ya Ne Mano 11.30-12.00 Antaksheri

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1997

Leadership credentials beyond question after inspirational success in Christchurch

Atherton fires Ashes ambitions

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTCHURCH (final day of five): England beat New Zealand by four wickets

TRIUMPH and drama jos-tied for England's attention yesterday and there were moments during a nerve-shredding climax to this Test series when it seemed that the titanic achievements of Michael Atherton would be in vain. Victory was sweet justice for a captain whose position can no longer be questioned.

It is the destiny of those who lead indifferent teams to face constant scrutiny and frequent doubt. Atherton has been under this microscope for almost four years now, and sometimes it has not been pleasant, but his perverse ambition to remain in the firing line a little longer is dare deny him after he won this match for his side with the most inspiring performance of

Tufnell accused Leading article

Ultimately, it was an unbroken seventh-wicket stand of 76 between John Crawley and Dominic Cork that settled a fluctuating game 16 minutes into its final hour. Without it. England might still have been beaten and the perceptions of their winter's cricket irredeemably scarred. Without Atherton, though, this would not even have been a contest.

The statistics are stagger ing. He was on the field for all but the last three hours and batted through a total of 744 minutes for his scores of 94 not out and 118. His series average was improved to 108, precisely 100 more than he averaged in the two drawn Tests in Zimbabwe.

Statistics, however, have never been the measure of this man and to play as he did when the stakes were so high and the circumstances so unpromising was one more recital of the unyielding obstinacy that has seen him through so

Atherton knew that a defeat here, no matter that it might make a travesty of a one-sided series, would undermine all the advances in image and performance that he and his side had made on this leg of the tour. So he did not let it happen, even when the rest of his team played the first half of the Test as if on a course of self-destruction and even when the fourth-innings target was in a territory that only one previous England side had successfully entered, and

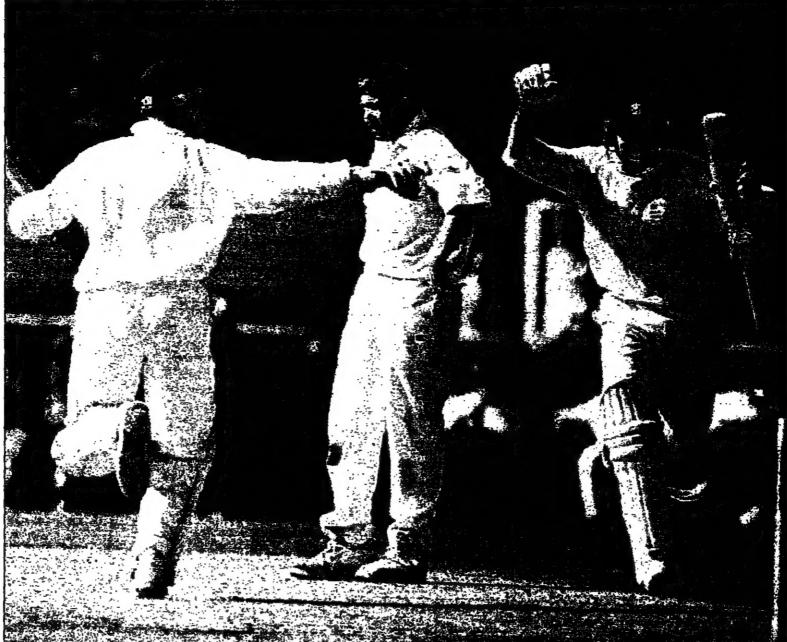
that almost 70 years ago. Even Steve Rixon, the New Zealand coach, who con-sciously belittled England's backbone through this series. was impressed. Asked if he would give Atherton the captaincy against Australia this summer, he said: "I would give him anything he wants tonight. He was a personal inspiration. I admired the way

he went about his job."

The contribution of the captain extended beyond his runs. He rallied his players after they had conceded a firstinnings lead of 118, instilling a fresh and positive attitude. The key thing was going out so aggressively for their second innings," he said. "By that, I mean we had the intent to bowl them out, rather than to sit back and watch them build an advantage. I was very keen we should dictate terms and things like Corky bursting through the tunnel anto the field helped set a tone."

Overnight on Monday, though the odds were still in New Zealand's favour, Atherbelief. "We knew we had to get him out to win," Stephen When it happened, we were pretty ecstatic." England, al-though in a position of control. were then suddenly vulnerable in a way that said everything about the stature of their

captain. Atherton had batted through the morning session. first with Andy Caddick for company and then Nasser Hussain. Caddick, the nightwatchman, had a reprieve when Darrell Hair, the umpire, ruled that the ball was



Cork, right, and Crawley celebrate the all-rounder's winning boundary in Christchurch yesterday, leaving Allott to reflect on a series defeat

dead when it jammed between bat and pad before being ght after it dropped onto his boot. He also, hearteningly, mowed Daniel Vettori for six over mid-wicket.

The grip exerted by Vettori on the fourth evening was relaxing as Hussain began to bar with freedom. The teen-'ager continued to direct his attack into the leg-stump rough, and it remained difficult to play with conviction, but either side of lunch England took control for the first

When Atherton was out, nibbling a shade wearily at

Nathan Astle after completing his eleventh Test century, only 79 more runs were required. The anxiety that has so often followed his fall was fully evident as Hussain was out in the next over, caught trying to withdraw his bat against Vettori, and Graham Thorpe gave a tame return catch to the

Three wickets had fallen for five runs in 16 balls and New Zealand were surging again, their fielding tigerish and their bowling confident. Crawley and Cork, however, who both owed England some resolution in this match,

same bowler.

played with skill, assurance and patience. Cork, determined to atone for his firstinnings aberration, negated Vettori's angle until Fleming

felt obliged to take him off. Vettori had tired, but, after 57 overs in only his second Test, that was no discredit to him. The disappointment, for New Zealand, was that no one else could either contain or penetrate as England's target shrank to 48 at tea, then just 15 when the last hour begun.

"It was certainly pretty tense," Atherton said. "I don't like watching in such circum-stances but I forced myself."

flurry of strokes, Atherion rose, wide-eyed, from the edge of his beach, threw his arms aloft and then hugged the nearest team-mate, who happened to be Alec Stewart.

Later, the fatigue showing around his eyes but the adrenalin still fresh in his voice, he said: 'We got in a muddle in this game because they got too many runs and we didn't get enough. New Zealand were the better side for two days but it made a test of character for

us and we came through strongly." Rixon, who offered no ex-

As the match ended in a cuses, said: This series could have ended 2-1 and it could have been 3-0 but today it might also have been I-I. If that had happened, I have tosay we would have been a bit

England, then, have won an oversess series for the first time in five years. It is easy to say they only beat New Zealand, and it is true that the opposition was fragile. It is also true that this was a victory vital to the avoidance of yet more unhealthy speculation and disruption, for only. with continuity can the national team hope to advance.

Captain to wait for vote of confidence

BY SIMON WILDE

AFTER what has been a nurbulent couple of months, even by the standards of recent England cricket cap-tains, Michael Atherton has almost certainly secured his short-term future in the job. His fitness problems, his shortage of runs and his team's lack of success in Zimbabwe have been consigned to the distant past. However, he may still have to wait to be reappointed to lead England against Australia this summer. First of all, as he five one-day internationals to play against New Zealand, the first of them in Christ-

Second, with the transition from the now defunct Test and County Cricket Board to the new English Cricket Board not yet complete, the process of choosing a captain

will probably take longer this

year than normal. There are, as yet, no seleciors in place, nor even a chairman, whose own apfore mid-March. By the time that such a group is assemb-led, the English season could be under way. The first of the Texaco Trophy matches against Australia is at

Headingley on May 22.
It would now be a great surprise, though, if the name belonged to anyone but Atherton. He clearly commands the overwhelming support of his players and management.

The mood was summed up by Dominic Cork. "He's the right man for the job," be said. "He deserves this victory for the work he has put in. We are now looking forward to taking on Australia - especially under Mike Atherton's leadership."

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13 Bot tree-garden (9) 15 Where the angry dimb 19 Full-length ball (cricket) (6) Beer makers (7) 23 Of the Prophet's religion [7]

24 Dried, wrinkled (with age) : 25 Stop flowing use tea-towel (3.2)

Two-legged creature (5) Suddenly change course (6) "Who is —? what is she"
(I)wo G. of V.) (6) Origin (6) Crushing embrace (4,3) 10 I wish things were other-wise! (2.4)

12 Till; cheque writer (6) Censure (7) Sort of monkey; bad mistake (6) Sprawled (6) (Clothes) inadequate (6) 20 Go over again (5) 22 Team; surface (4)

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THE PARTY OF THE P England won loss **NEW ZEALAND: First lyminos**

(72min, 59 balls, 2 tours) HT Davis of Hussain b Croft ... (46min, 31 balls)

G I Allott not out (14min, 18 balls, 1 lour) Extras (b 1, b 16, nb 19) . Total (129.1 overs, 522min) ... FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 (Pocock 1), 2-78 (Home 30), 3-108 (Fleming 11), 4-137 (Fleming 25), 5-201 (Pauce 25), 6-283 (Carns 40), 7-268 (Carns 43), 8-310 (Vision 7), 9-337 (Devis 7). BOWLING: Cork 20-3-78-1; Caddick 32-8-64-1; Gough 21-3-70-1; Croft 39.1-5-95-5, Tutnell 16-8-22-0; Thorpe 1-1-0-0.

ENGLAND: Flust lonings

"M A Alterton not out
[345min, 235 balls, 10 lours]
†A J Stewart o sub (C Z Hamis)
b Allott
(14min, 10 balls, 3 fours)
N Huseain o Parone b Cainna
(45min, 34 balls, 1 lour)
G P Thorpe b Astle
[54min, 45 balls, 1 lour)
J P Carellay o Parone in Allott
(5min, 6 balls)
D G Cork o Parone b Davis
(80min, 44 balls, 2 fours)
R D B Groft o Davis b Astle
(80min, 57 balls, 5 fours)
D Gough b Vettori
(8min, 9 balls)
A R Caddick o sub (C Z Hamis)
b Allott

b Affort 4 (26mm, 23 balls) P C R Tufnell c Young b Douli 13 (16min, 15 balls, 2 lours) Extras (to 4, w 1, nb 5) ... Total (84.4 overs, 346min) ... FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20 (Altherton 6), 2-40 (Atherton 11), 3-70 (Atherton 29), 4-103 (Atherton 42), 5-104 (Atherton 42), 6-145 (Atherton 65), 7-198 (Atherton 85), 6-145 (Athenon 65), 7-198 (Athenton 86) 8-199 (Athenton 67), 9-210 (Athenton 92)

BOWLING: Allott 18-3-74-4, Doull 17-4 3-49-1; Davis 18-2-60-1; Vetton 12-4 13-1; Cairns 8-5-12-1; Astle 11-2-28-2 NEW ZEALAND; Second Innings B A Pocock b Cork (2nsr. 4 bels) B A Young c Kright b Tulnell (165ms, 135 bels, 5 fours) (A C Parora c Savent b Gough (63min, 55 bels)

Total (88.3 overs, 322min) __ 186 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Young U), 2-42 (Young 29), 3-51 (Young 37), 4-76 (Young 45), 5-80 (Calma 0), 5-80 (Calma 4), 7-107 (Carms 8), 8-178 (Veillori 25), 9-184 (Veillori 25). BOWLING: Cark 6-2-5-1; Caddick 10-1-25-1; Croft 31-13-48-2; Gough 13.3-5-42-3; Tulnel 28-9-58-3.

ENGLAND: Second Invinge

J P Crawley not out (148 oin, 113 bells, 5 (ours) D & Cork not out (140 min, 123 bells, 5 fours) Edras (b 2, b 8, w 1, nb 3) .. Total (6 wkss, 146.4 overs, 554min) .307 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-84 (Atherion 28), 2-116 (Atherion 63), 3-146 (Atherion 75), 4-226 (Hussain 33), 5-226 (Thorpe 0), 6-231 (Crewley 3).

BOWLING: Alice 12.4-2.520 (w 1; 3 fours 5-2-4-0, 2-0-10-0, 5.4-0-18-0; Denis 18-8-43-0 (rib 2 7 fours; 2-0-17-0, 4-2-11-0, 5-3-2-0, 4-1-12-0, 3-0-7-0; Douli 25-8-67-1 [6 fours; 8-4-2-0, 5-2-8-0, 3-0-14-1, 2-1-9-0, 3-1-8-0]; Vettori

SCORING NOTES: Fifth day; Lunch; 203-3 (95 overs, 350min; Atherion 105, Hussain 24). Tea: 257-6 (128 overs, 480min; Cashriey 13, Cork 16). Second new ball; 182-3 (69 overs) at 12,07pm. England won by four wickets

Metch award: M. A. Atherton (Adjud-celor: F.J. Cerneron). Umpires: R. S. Dunne and D. B. Hah (Australia). Third umpire: D.M. Questad. Match referee: P.J.P. Burgis (Australia). Metch reserves.
SERIES DETAILS: First Teet (Auck-

unit): Match dizen. Second Test (Wellington): England won by an innings and 68 runk.

South Africa rugby coach resigns a former provincial player, André Bester, which included a string of obscenities and

abusive comments about Mhileki

George, the senior vice-president of the

South African Rugby Football Union

(Sarfu). The Sarfu executive committee

meets in Johannesburg today, but Louis

Luyt, their president, had already dis-

tanced himself from Markgraaff, whose

By DAVID HANDS RUCBY CORRESPONDENT

ON THE eve of a new southern hemisphere season, against a backdrop of financial intrigue and a failed drugs test. South Africa lost their national coach yesterday. André Markgraaff resigned in Kimberley after a countrywide outcry against a tape recording on which he is alleged to have made a series of racist

Markgraaff had been in office less than a year and was the subject of another national campaign last summer when he dropped Francois Pienaar, captain of the 1995 World Cup-winning team, from the squad that toured Argentina, France and Wales. Though results on that tour re-established Markgraaff's credentials, he will not now have the chance to nit his remoulded team against the British Isles

decision to quit may have saved the union

the embarrassing decision to sack him. That decision comes too late, however, for Pienaar, who is contracted to Saracens for the next two years. Markgraaff had indicated that there would be no place for the former Transvaal flanker in future national teams, although Pienaar is still Over the weekend, media outlets were ambitious to play international rugby; circulated with copies of the tape, made by but if he is competing outside South

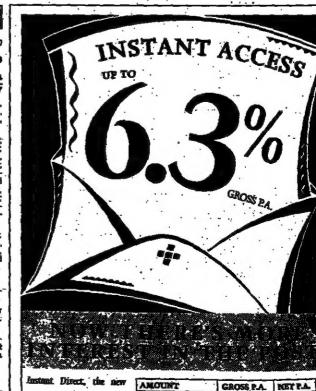
Africa, he is unlikely to be considered by the new management team.

The most likely successor as coach is Nic Mallett, the former Oxford University Blue, who was assistant to Markgraaff on the autumn tour. Mallett played No 8 for South Africa in the mid-1980s, and has been working with Carel du Plessis, the former Springbok wing; if they take over, they will have one international against Italy on June 12 before the three-match

series with the Lions begins. "li's very unfortunate, particularly when so much has been achieved through South African rugby, that this should flare up, but it's an internal matter for Sarfu," Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, said. The last thing you want is for anything to undermine what has been achieved in South Africa."

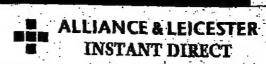
Newcastle will confirm today the signing from Wigan rugby league club of Va'aiga Tuigamala, the former New Zealand wing who played for Western

Samoa against Ireland last November.



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